



Arizona State Legislature

1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RESOLUTION

OPPOSING THE DESIGNATION OF THE PROPOSED “BAAJ NWAAVJO I’TAH KUKVENI GRAND CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT” AND DEMANDING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OBTAIN THE CONSENT OF CONGRESS, ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE, AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES BEFORE DESIGNATING ANY ADDITIONAL NATIONAL MONUMENTS, PARKS, WILDLIFE REFUGES, CONSERVATION AREAS, AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN, WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS, WILDERNESS, WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS AREAS, OR OTHER FEDERAL SPECIAL USE AREAS IN ARIZONA OR OTHERWISE WITHDRAWING AND RESERVING FEDERAL MINERAL, WATER, LAND OR OTHER NATURAL RESOURCE RIGHTS IN ARIZONA

WHEREAS, for decades, radical environmental activist groups and others have sought to remove state and federal land in Arizona out of economic production, permanently ban critical mineral and metal mining, cattle grazing, and other multiple use activities on federal controlled lands in this state, and acquire or otherwise exert additional political and economic control over Arizona’s land, water, and natural resources, especially in the resource-rich area in Northern Arizona; and

WHEREAS, multiple attempts have been made in Congress to permanently ban critical mineral and metal mining and other multiple use activities outside the Grand Canyon area, including the proposed Grand Canyon Watersheds Protection Act of 2008, Grand Canyon Watersheds Protection Act of 2009, Grand Canyon Watersheds Protection Act of 2011, Grand Canyon Watersheds Protection Act of 2013, the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act of 2015, the Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act of 2019, and the Grand Canyon Protection Act in 2021, which each would have permanently set aside between 1 and 1.7 million acres of federal controlled lands north and south of the Grand Canyon National Park (see President Biden's "30x30" Conservation Effort and BLM 2.0) ; and

WHEREAS, multiple attempts by radical environmental groups have been made to direct the U.S. Secretary of the Interior and/or President of the United States to circumvent Congress and unilaterally declare the establishment of a national monument that would permanently withdraw mining and other multiple use activities in the area, including the proposed 1.7 million-acre Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument, 1.7 million-acre Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument, and 1.1 million Baaj Nwaavjo I’tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument (each, a “Grand Canyon National Monument”); and

WHEREAS, under the Obama Administration, the U.S. Department of the Interior exercised unilateral authority to effectuate temporary bans on all new mineral and hardrock mining claims in the area, including a two-year ban in 2009, a six-month extension, and a twenty-year ban in 2012; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, when the 2009 interim moratorium was due to expire, and existing mining claims were renewing their interest in taking advantage of economic opportunities in the area, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior under President Barack Obama extended the 1-million-acre moratorium for twenty years; and

WHEREAS, the area withdrawn included over 355,000 acres of U.S. Forest Service land, 626,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management land, and 23,000 acres of split estates where subsurface minerals are owned by the federal government or the state; and

WHEREAS, the twenty-year ban is set to expire in January 2032; and

WHEREAS, radical environmental activist groups and others have stated publicly that the goal is to obtain a permanent withdrawal of mineral and mining rights on the land; and

WHEREAS, to effectuate such a ban, in 2016, radical environmental groups proposed the establishment of a Grand Canyon National Monument that would have set aside up to 1.7 million acres of land north and south of the Grand Canyon National Park; and

WHEREAS, the 1.7 million acres would have included approximately 64,000 acres of Arizona State Trust Land and 22,000 acres of private land; and

WHEREAS, by locking up 64,000 acres of State Trust land, the national monument would have denied the Arizona State Land Department its ability to put such lands to highest and best use and, therefore, reduce by hundreds of millions of dollars the amount of money available the thirteen State Trust Beneficiaries, which includes K-12 education; and

WHEREAS, even if ownership of the land located within the monument's boundaries did not transfer to the federal government as a result of the monument's designation, the rights of private landowners, including state entities, to access, use, develop, and transfer their property would have nevertheless be affected, as their parcels would have been completely surrounded by monument land and their development rights would have been eliminated or constrained where the development is deemed incompatible with the purpose of the monument; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, it was estimated that the economic impact of the establishing a Grand Canyon National Monument would have been \$29 billion in lost economic activity and as many as 4,000 jobs destroyed; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, Arizona Senator Kyrsten Sinema and U.S. Representative Raul Grijalva unveiled a scheme to have President Joseph R. Biden designate the "Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument" near the Grand Canyon National Park; and

WHEREAS, if designated, the Grand Canyon National Monument would restrict access to approximately 1.1 million acres of private, state, and federal land located in Northern Arizona in a remote region of the state known as the "Arizona Strip"; and

WHEREAS, the Arizona Strip is an extremely important and unique region of the state consisting of all the land north of the Grand Canyon and south of the Utah border, which provides world class opportunities for ranching, farming, mining, logging, hunting, recreation and other multiple uses that local communities depend on for social and economic support; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the Arizona Strip currently use the Arizona Strip to make a living through ranching, farming, mining, logging, and hunting while simultaneously helping to responsibly manage and conserve the land and enjoying the beautiful landscape for recreation and sight-seeing; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the Arizona Strip are currently able to access and use the lands within the proposed boundaries of the Grand Canyon National Monument for all "multiple-use" purposes as defined under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. 43 U.S.C. § 1701, *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, portions of the Arizona Strip and other areas near the Grand Canyon National Park feature unique collapse breccia pipe uranium deposits that have ore grades as high as 0.4-1 percent, which are as high as or higher than any other global uranium-deposit type and cost significantly less to extract; and

WHEREAS, the portion of Northern Arizona in the Arizona Strip and other areas surrounding the greater Grand Canyon region contain some of the nation's best uranium deposits as a result of the unique collapse breccia pipe uranium mineralization, which is a natural part of the environment in this region; and

WHEREAS, uranium mining on the Arizona Strip has been a major source of economic development in previous years, and there are as many as 10,000 existing mining claims on Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service land near the Grand Canyon for all types of hardrock mining, including at least 1,100 uranium mining claims within five miles of the Grand Canyon National Park; and

WHEREAS, the uranium deposits of Northern Arizona are geologically unique in comparison to other areas in the world, as they are very high-grade, close to the surface, and require very little land area to mine; as a result, they are among the highest-grade, lowest-cost, and lowest-impact sources of uranium in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the surface disturbance of collapse breccia pipe uranium mining operations are extremely small—less than 20 acres in size—due to the high-grade, compact nature of the mineralization and use of underground waste rock to back-fill the mine following extraction, resulting in reclaimed land that is nearly indistinguishable from undisturbed areas but that has had

all or the vast majority of its harmful ore bodies extracted from the ground, such that they can pose no threat to percolating groundwater streams any longer; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the low-impact operations, regulatory oversight, and environmental protections, breccia pipe uranium mining in Arizona sets the world standard for safe and responsible uranium mining; and

WHEREAS, in anticipation of the 20-year ban on uranium mining, the Bureau of Land Management was instructed to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement that would include not only an evaluation of the potential contamination of Colorado River water caused by uranium mining, but also adequate consideration of the contamination of Colorado River water caused by the presence of uranium in the ground, itself; and

WHEREAS, a study commissioned by the Bureau of Land Management in partnership with the Arizona Geological Survey, titled, "Breccia-pipe uranium mining in the Grand Canyon region and implications for uranium levels in Colorado River water," found that uranium is one of many chemical elements present in Earth's crust and that natural causes, such as weathering and erosion, gradually dissolve the uranium into the Colorado River water and groundwater; and

WHEREAS, the joint Bureau of Land Management and Arizona Geological Survey study found that as much as 60 metric tons of dissolved uranium are dissolved into the Colorado River each year by natural causes and that this environmental impact has no relationship with or correlation to uranium mining in the area; and

WHEREAS, because uranium is a natural constituent of the environment, removing the uranium from the ground removes the source of dissolved contaminants from the water, making the Colorado River and groundwater safer for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the joint Bureau of Land Management and Arizona Geological Survey study found that there had been no environmental accidents or significant events during the 1980-1995 period of breccia pipe mining in the greater Grand Canyon region nor during any of the 15 years of mining inactivity that followed; and

WHEREAS, nuclear power is a zero-emission clean energy sources, and enriched uranium is essential for the production of nuclear energy through fission, which generates electricity without the harmful byproducts emitted from the combustion of carbon-based fuels and provides over sixty percent of the state's carbon-free energy; and

WHEREAS, with a capacity of nearly 4,000 Megawatts, the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station in Arizona is the largest nuclear power plant in the United States and relies on uranium to provide safe and reliable power at affordable rates to over 4 million homes across four states, including Arizona, California, Texas, and New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, nuclear reactors in the United States currently require approximately 22,500 tons of uranium each year; and

WHEREAS, each of these 20-acre mines has enough uranium to supply the entire State of Arizona with carbon-free energy for 1-2 years, and, over the last 45 years, the area has extracted enough uranium to provide fuel for 50 reactor-years; and

WHEREAS, the amount of energy contained in each of Arizona's high-grade uranium mines is equivalent to the amount of energy contained in a continuous coal train stretched from Los Angeles to New York and part of the way back, illustrating the amount of carbon emissions that harnessing each of these mines can offset; and

WHEREAS, until the 1980s, the United States was the world's leading producer of uranium, and there were multiple active uranium mines in Arizona, but now the U.S. ranks tenth in the world for uranium production and only one active uranium mine remains in Arizona; and

WHEREAS, because of efforts like the proposed Grand Canyon National Monument that block the production of uranium from domestic sources and other reasons, the United States is alarmingly reliant on foreign countries for enriched uranium and must import approximately 95 percent of its uranium from foreign countries, of which nearly fifty percent comes from Russia and Kazakhstan; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Energy Administration, the United States produces only five percent of the uranium it needs; and

WHEREAS, the state-owned Russian nuclear agency receives as much as \$1 billion each year from American companies that purchase uranium, and Russia controls almost half of all uranium that is used in U.S. nuclear reactors; and

WHEREAS, despite our reliance on Russia, uranium was removed from the U.S. Geological Survey's list of "critical minerals" in 2022; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the Chairman of the U.S. House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy sent a letter to U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin to request the U.S. Department of Treasury investigate allegations that Russian state-sponsored entities were funneling Russian funds to prominent and politically active radical environmental groups in "what appears to be a concerted effort" to "influence the U.S. energy market"; and

WHEREAS, the known radical environmental activist groups like the Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, League of Conservation Voters, and others were named in the 2017 letter to U.S. Treasury Secretary Mnuchin as groups that were receiving Russian funding; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Congress began investigating foreign nations, including China and Russia, for their influence over domestic tax-exempt 501(c) environmental organizations to influence U.S. environmental and natural resource policy, including the Natural Resources Defense Council, Center for Biological Diversity, and EarthJustice, which, the investigation found, often take critical views of U.S. environmental initiatives and seek to block development of domestic energy and natural resource production in the United States while downplaying severe

environmental and human rights violations in other countries and allowing economic development opportunities in such jurisdictions to proceed unfettered, regardless of the environmental, economic, and human rights impacts; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, the Office of National Intelligence released its 2023 Threat Assessment for America, which revealed the growing threat that America faces from foreign interests, such as China and Russia, that are hostile to the United States and found that such interests are “using a variety of tools,” like front groups, to “build influence at the state and local level” to shape domestic U.S. policies “in [their] favor,” including on issues of national security, energy independence, food security, and technological advancements; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, concerned citizens called on the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources to renew and expand its investigations into foreign funding of American environmental nonprofit groups to fully understand the scope of influence that foreign adversaries, like China and Russia, are having on the environmental lobby; and

WHEREAS, Arizona news sources indicate one of the main purposes of designating the Grand Canyon National Monument is to extend the current moratorium indefinitely on uranium mining, which would continue and potentially exacerbate the United States’ reliance on foreign imports of enriched uranium, including from Russia; and

WHEREAS, radical environmental groups like the Sierra Club have pushed an anti-nuclear campaign in Arizona for decades, and many others, including the Natural Resources Defense Council, Center for Biological Diversity, EarthJustice, and Sierra Club, have stated publicly their opposition to uranium mining in the Arizona Strip and have worked aggressively to advance the designation of a national monument that would make the temporary ban permanent and forever prevent the mining of uranium outside the Grand Canyon area, despite the lack of legal and factual support or the impacts that imposing such a ban would have on domestic energy supply, state and local economic prosperity, or national security; and

WHEREAS, the coalition of politicians and radical environmental activists that have been pushing for these devastating outcomes have been intent on working with President Joe Biden and the U.S. Department of the Interior to unilaterally establish such national monument and permanently withdraw much of the eastern half of the Arizona Strip from "multiple-use"; and

WHEREAS, despite the demand for critical minerals increasing at an exponential rate, and recognition that the United States must increase its supply of domestic critical minerals and metals, it is surprising that active efforts to reduce domestic mineral and metal production in resource-rich areas, like the greater Grand Canyon region, are being entertained; and

WHEREAS, China has already begun restricting the export of metals crucial to the U.S. economy, such as gallium and germanium, which are essential elements for the semiconductor industry and demonstrate the risks and international tensions that can occur from reliance on foreign imports of critical minerals; and

WHEREAS, if the proposed Grand Canyon National Monument is established, it will forever close this area to domestic uranium production and require 100 percent of our uranium to be supplied for foreign nations, reducing our ability to provide for the defense of our nation and increasing the cost of delivering safe and reliable power to customers nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the Antiquities Act of 1906 grants the President authority to "*declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated on land owned or controlled by the Federal Government to be national monuments*" and "*reserve parcels of land as a part of the national monuments.*" 54 U.S.C. § 320301(a) & (b); and

WHEREAS, the Antiquities Act of 1906 restricts the President's authority by stating that "*[t]he limits of the parcels shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.*" 54 U.S.C. § 320301(b); and

WHEREAS, a plain reading of the Antiquities Act of 1906 reveals that the President may only declare a national monument to protect eligible objects, which are limited to "historic landmarks," "historic" or "prehistoric structures," or "other objects of historic or scientific interest," (54 U.S.C. § 320301(a)) and that, in reserving land related to the national monument, the President may reserve only the "smallest area compatible with the proper care and management" of the eligible objects (54 U.S.C. § 320301(b)); and

WHEREAS, in 1996, President Bill Clinton declared the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Southern Utah, which reserved approximately 1.6 million acres of federal controlled lands without seeking the consent or advice of the State of Utah or local counties; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, after decades of intense study and twenty years since the designation of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, the Bureau of Land Management and academic researchers found that many of the objects identified in the relevant proclamation were not unique to the monument, were not of significant historic or scientific interest, and were not under threat of damage or destruction and, thus, that the boundaries of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument were greater "the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management" of the objects for which lands were reserved and needed to be reduced. Presidential Proclamation 9682; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, President Obama declared the Bears Ears National Monument in Southern Utah, which restricted approximately 1.35 million acres of federal controlled lands without seeking the consent or advice of the State of Utah or local counties; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, it was determined after significant review that, given the nature of the objects identified in the Bears Ears National Monument, the lack of a threat of damage or destruction to many of those objects, and the protection for those objects already provided by existing law and governing land-use plans, the area of federal land reserved for the Bears Ears National Monument was not confined to the "smallest area compatible with the proper care and management" of those objects and needed to be reduced by more than 1.1 million acres. Presidential Proclamation 9681; and

WHEREAS, since 1906, U.S. Presidents have used the Antiquities Act of 1906 to establish as many as twenty-three national monuments in Arizona, including the Petrified Forest (1906), Montezuma Castle (1906), Tonto (1907), Tumacacori (1908), Grand Canyon (1908), Navajo (1909), Papa Saguaro (1914), Walnut Canyon (1915), Casa Grande (1918), Pipe Springs (1923), Wupataki (1924), Chiricahua (1924), Sunset Crater (1930), Grand Canyon "II" (1932), Saguaro (1933), Organ Pipe Cactus (1937), Tuzigoot (1939), Marble Canyon (1969), Vermillion Cliffs (2000), Ironwood Forest (2000), Grand Canyon-Parashant (2000), Agua Fria (2000), and Sonoran Desert (2001), totaling 3.7 million acres and increasing in size each designation; and

WHEREAS, at 1.1 million acres, the proposed Grand Canyon National Monument would represent the largest, single designation of a national monument in Arizona history in terms of land mass, with the Grand Canyon-Parashant national monument designated in 2000 at 1 million acres being the second largest designation declared in the state; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Grand Canyon National Monument has failed to indicate any "objects" eligible for designation as a national monument, as defined in the Antiquities Act of 1906; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Canyon National Monument proposal has failed to indicate why 1.1 million acres is *"the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects"* as defined in the Antiquities Act of 1906; and

WHEREAS, under the General Mining Act of 1872, the proclamation of a national monument by executive order under the Antiquities Act of 1906 can have no effect on valid existing mining rights, and a reservation for the purpose of establishing a national monument cannot operate to escalate the underlying claim of the United States to the land in question. 30 U.S.C. §§ 22 *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, to effectuate a comprehensive permanent ban, the federal government must acquire at full market value all outstanding valid mining claims established pursuant to the General Mining Act of 1872, and Congress has not appropriated the funds to support this Fifth Amendment taking; and

WHEREAS, significant portions of the 1.1 million acres within the proposed Grand Canyon National Monument are already protected through wilderness designations or successfully managed by the Arizona Game and Fish Department in a multiple-use framework and partnership with the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service; and

WHEREAS, the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 and the Federal Land and Policy Management Act of 1976 prohibit the federal land management agencies from affecting the state's jurisdiction and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, withdrawing federal Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service land from multiple use would impact not only uranium mining in the area but also other multiple

use activities, such as hunting, fishing, logging, and cattle grazing on federal grazing allotments; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, when President Biden re-expanded the boundaries of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and Bears Ears National Monument to their original 3.23 million acres, the President inserted a provision to permanently retire grazing permits on the federal controlled lands (the "Grazing Retirement Clause"). Presidential Proclamation 10285; Presidential Proclamation 10286; and

WHEREAS, the Grazing Retirement Clause threatens the economic viability of the ranching industry in Northern Arizona by permanently retiring grazing permits, and arguably violates both the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976; and

WHEREAS, if the proposed Grand Canyon National Monument were to contain a Grazing Retirement Clause, then the proposed Grand Canyon National Monument would not only threaten the economic viability of the uranium and other hardrock mining industries, but also threaten the economic viability of the ranching industry by making grazing permanently unavailable in the portion of the Arizona Strip covered by the national monument; and

WHEREAS, if the proposed Grand Canyon National Monument were to contain a Grazing Retirement Clause, then the proposed Grand Canyon National Monument would arguably violate both the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976; and

WHEREAS, it is now clear that the creation of an enormous national monument over 1 million acres in size with no local input would result in a loss of employment opportunities and severe land use restrictions that would fundamentally change the lifestyles and culture of those living in the area and that have relied on and responsibly managed the land for generations; and

WHEREAS, Arizona's great strength lies in the value of its public and private lands, and the ability for the public to access and utilize those lands for a variety of economic and recreational uses; and

WHEREAS, the state of Arizona has only 73 million acres within its borders; and

WHEREAS, as much as 30.7 million of the land in Arizona is owned and managed by five federal agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management (12.2 million acres), U.S. Forest Service (11.3 million acres), National Park Service (2.6 million acres), Fish and Wildlife Service (1.7 million acres), and Department of Defense (3 million acres), which does not include additional lands held by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation or Agricultural Research Service; and

WHEREAS, these 30.7 million acres of federal controlled lands comprise more than 42 percent of the total land in Arizona, and more than 43 percent of these lands (as much as 10.3 million acres) have special land use designations, which includes 5.8 million acres of National Monuments, Parks, Wildlife Refuges, Conservation Areas, Areas of Critical Environmental

Concern, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Wilderness Characteristics Areas and 4.5 million acres of Wilderness; and

WHEREAS, with over 10.3 million acres dedicated to special uses, the State of Arizona has more designated wilderness acreage than 47 other states; and

WHEREAS, the State of Arizona has more national monuments than any other state in the Union, with a total number of eighteen national monuments; and

WHEREAS, an additional 19.8 million acres, comprising more than 27 percent of total land in Arizona, is Indian Trust Land that is held in trust by the federal government for the benefit of federally recognized tribes, federal controlled lands comprise more than 42 percent of total land in Arizona, and more than 43 percent of these lands; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Arizona's Statehood Enabling Act, the State of Arizona, through the State Land Department, holds another 9.3 million acres of State Trust Lands for the benefit of thirteen State Trust Beneficiaries, which represent 12.7 percent of Arizona's total surface land ownership, which brings the total amount of land under government control to approximately 55 percent; and

WHEREAS, through ownership, such as private, state, federal, and tribal ownership, or special land use designations, more than 77 percent of Arizona's lands are restricted from public use and recreation, which leaves only 23 percent of Arizona's lands free from special land use restrictions and open for public use; and

WHEREAS, combined, local, state, tribal, and federal government control over 87 percent of all land in Arizona, which leaves only 13 percent of all Arizona land to private owners; and

WHEREAS, the low percentage of private and State Trust land in Arizona places the state at a significant economic disadvantage restricts its ability to adequately manage its public lands and provide for its economic future; and

WHEREAS, once federal controlled lands have been withdrawn and converted to special use lands, such as national monuments, parks, wildlife refuges, conservation areas, areas of critical environmental concern, wild and scenic rivers, or wilderness characteristic areas, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 mandate of multiple use and sustained yield no longer applies, and those lands lose their multiple use provisions; and

WHEREAS, once federal controlled lands have been withdrawn and reserved, a federal reserved water right is implied for achieving the purpose of the reservation (Arizona v. California, 373 U.S. 546 (1963)), and the reservation of water extends not only to surface water, but also to groundwater (Cappert v. United States, 426 U.S. 128 (1976)); and

WHEREAS, for every additional acre of State Trust Land, private land, or federal multiple-use land that is withdrawn and reserved for special uses, the State loses diverse economic and recreational opportunities, which would otherwise contribute to the state and local tax base,

provide jobs, support K-12 and higher education, and provide other public goods and services that help to ensure efficiency in conserving and managing Arizona's public lands; and

WHEREAS, the designation of additional special use areas, including the proposed Grand Canyon National Monument, will further restrict Arizona's ability to maximize economic production for the national interest and recreation for the people and visitors of Arizona; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, the Arizona House of Representatives and State Senate passed a measure calling on the federal government to relinquish and transfer title of all federally controlled national forests, national monuments, national wildlife refuges, and Bureau of Land Management land to the State of Arizona by 2015. S.B. 1332; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, Senator Mike Crapo of Idaho introduced the National Monument Designation Transparency and Accountability Act to limit the President's unfettered discretion in designating national monuments by requiring Congress to approve the designation of new national monuments within two years of their establishment, and only after determining "that the state in which the monument is to be located has enacted legislation approving its designation" S. 228; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, U.S. House Representatives Paul Gosar of Arizona and Crescent Hardy of Nevada introduced the Gosar-Hardy Amendment to prohibit public land management agencies from carrying out declarations under the Antiquities Act in counties where there is significant local opposition and, specifically, to prohibit the establishment of pending national monument designations in Mohave and Coconino counties in Arizona. H.R. 2822 Gosar-Hardy Amendment; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, Arizona Senators John McCain and Jeff Flake, along with Senators Orrin Hatch and Mike Lee of Utah, introduced a bill to limit the federal government's authority to reserve water rights when designating a national monument, thereby limiting the ability of the Administration to change existing water rights without an act of Congress. S. 1416; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, State Senator Sonny Borrelli and Representative Mark Finchem introduces the Property Tax Base Preservation Act, which would have prohibited the sale, gift, grant, or any other transfer of ownership interest in private land to the federal government "without the express, affirmative consent of the Legislature and governor." S.B. 1046 and H.B. 2092; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, U.S. House Representative Debbie Lesko introduced the Domestic Uranium Saves America Act to declare uranium a critical mineral and add the critical energy fuel to the U.S. Geological Survey's list of critical minerals; and

WHEREAS, multiple other legislative measures have been proposed to protect Arizona's land, water, and natural resources and send a clear message to the United States that responsible economic production of these resources, including uranium, minerals and aggregate mining, cattle grazing, and other multiple uses are critical to the U.S. economy, food and energy supply, and national interest; and

WHEREAS, the people of Mohave County, members of the local community, and economic producers of the Arizona Strip do not want the proposed Grand Canyon National Monument; and

WHEREAS, no additional federal land reservation or special use designation should be made or declared in Arizona without the vote and consent of Congress, the Arizona State Legislature, and local community that will be impacted; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the below-signed members of Arizona House and Senate Leadership, members of the Natural Resources, Energy and Water Committees of the Arizona House of Representatives and Arizona State Senate, and members of the Arizona House of Representatives Committee on Land, Agriculture and Rural Affairs:

1. Oppose the designation of the proposed “Baaj Nwaavjo I’tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument”;
2. Oppose the designation of any national monument near the Grand Canyon National Park that seeks to limit critical mineral, metal and aggregate mining, cattle grazing, and multiple use activities in the Arizona Strip, or anywhere else in the State of Arizona; and
3. Oppose the further special use designation, conversion, withdrawal, or reservation of federal controlled lands in Arizona from multiple use that result in the net loss of land, water, or natural resources or economic or recreational activities, without the express consent of Congress, the Arizona State Legislature, and members of the local community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the designation of proposed “Baaj Nwaavjo I’tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument” exceeds the President’s authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906 and would be in violation of the General Mining Act of 1872, Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960, and Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no additional National Monuments, Parks, Wildlife Refuges, Conservation Areas, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Wilderness, Wilderness Characteristics Areas, or other federal special use designations or mineral, land, water, or other national resource withdrawals or reservations should be declared or pursued in Arizona, without:

1. The consent of Congress;
2. The consent of the Arizona Legislature when in session;
3. The consent of the members of the local communities that would be negatively impacted by the designation, withdrawal, or reservation; and
4. The completion of a comprehensive economic impact study that analyzes the cumulative, tangible, and measurable impacts to the state, local, and national economy of removing the additional land, water, or natural resources from economic production and that demonstrates that the removal of such lands, water, or natural resources represents the least burden and cost method to achieve the desired cultural, historical, or environmental protection.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the below-signed members hereby pray that President Joseph R. Biden does not designate the proposed “Baaj Nwaavjo I’tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument”;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this Resolution is effective immediately.

ADOPTED this 7th day of August 2023.

SIGNED
















Sam Barilli



Ernest Parker
Co. Madison



David M. DeVan, Sr.
Troy & Du









