

February 11, 2019

David Bernhardt
Acting Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Acting Secretary Bernhardt:

The Grand Canyon is one of the most iconic and scenic National Parks in the United States. With six million visitors each year, this treasured public land not only provides recreation and tourism for six million visitors each year, it also is home to the several Native American tribes including the Havasupai.

Because of its unique ecological, recreation, and cultural value, we ask that you keep intact the one million-acre mineral withdrawal on public lands surrounding Grand Canyon National Park. The Grand Canyon was named a World Heritage Site and is one of the seven natural wonders of the world precisely because of its importance not only to the people of Arizona but globally. We ask that you keep these lands protected from uranium mining.

Uranium mines located adjacent to the Grand Canyon have already contaminated 15 springs and 5 wells inside the canyon to the point that they are unsafe for drinking. Both Pinenut and Canyon mines (uranium mines on public lands around Grand Canyon) have had associated water pollution and the conditions at Pinenut have also exceeded limits set in air quality standards. Additional uranium mines will further contaminate the area's land and threaten the waters that are connected to the seeps and springs within Grand Canyon. The public lands surrounding Grand Canyon provide not only access for recreationists and hunters, but significant winter wildlife habitat and crucial wildlife corridors that are all vulnerable to the impacts of mining activities.

Sacred sites are also under threat from increased uranium mining. The Havasupai tribe continue to utilize the public lands surrounding the Grand Canyon for their religious practices. As leaders

in the faith community we recognize that this religious freedom is a cornerstone of the founding of our nation.

We urge you to join us and others in the faith community in supporting a continued ban on uranium mining around the Grand Canyon.

Sincerely,

Reverend Evelene Navarette
Shepherd of the Valley
Phoenix, AZ

Rabbi Susan Schanerman
Congregation Nefesh Soul
Phoenix, AZ

Reverend Tom Martinez
Desert Palm United Church of Christ
Phoenix, AZ

Patrick Grady
Arizona Interfaith Power and Light Board President
Prescott, Arizona

Reverend Rock Fremont
Shepherd of the Hills – United Church of Christ
Phoenix, AZ

Reverend Staccato K. Powell, II
Valley of the Son African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
Phoenix, AZ

Rev. Kathleen Sibley
Center for Spiritual Living Prescott
Prescott, AZ

Rabbi Nina Perlmutter
Prescott, AZ

Rev. Kevin Lawson,
Beacon UU Congregation
Flagstaff, AZ

Rev. Marianna Gronek
Epiphany Episcopal Church
Flagstaff, AZ

Rabbi Mindie Snyder,
Congregation Lev Shalom
Flagstaff, AZ

Rev. Ann Johnson,
St. Paul's Episcopal
Winslow, AZ

Janet Braun
Bahai
Flagstaff, AZ

Ted Bordwell
Bahai
Flagstaff, AZ

Francine Loper
Bahai
Flagstaff, AZ

Rev. Penni Honey
Unity of Flagstaff
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Rev. Janetta Beaumont
Epiphany Episcopal
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Rev. Dr. Scott Deasy
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Sarah King
Former chair of Arizona Faith Network Earth Care Commission
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Reverend Jessica Goad
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Flagstaff, AZ