Dear Secretary Zinke:

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

Flagstaff, AZ

Rev. Janetta Beaumont

Epiphany Episcopal

Flagstaff, AZ

Rev. Dr. Scott Deasy

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Sarah King

Former chair of Arizona Faith Network Earth Care Commission

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