

July 8, 2016

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior Department
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Thomas Vilsack
Secretary of the Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack:

As Arizona farmers, ranchers, and agricultural businesses who care about water quality and quantity, we urge you to support protecting the watershed of the Grand Canyon as a national monument.

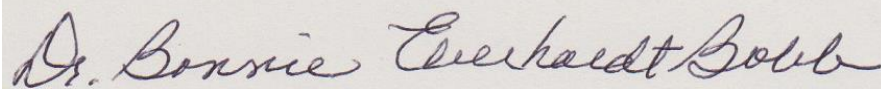
The current moratorium on new uranium mining in northern Arizona near the Grand Canyon National Park is helpful and necessary, however, it is only short term. The area surrounding our most iconic landscape needs a permanent solution. Given uranium mining's legacy of contamination, we are concerned that future mining operations near the Grand Canyon could pollute the Colorado River and contaminate water supplies for farms, ranches and communities downstream.

In addition to permanently ending new mining around the Grand Canyon, a national monument would provide lasting protections for the forests on the southern rim. The Kaibab National Forest acts as an important filter and regulator of water resources. Future development in this sensitive ecosystem could have detrimental impacts on water quality and long term water supply.

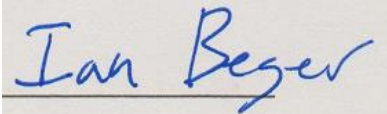
Water is the lifeblood of our ranching and farming tradition, and the importance of the Colorado River to Arizona and the West is paramount. The 2012 Census of Agriculture by the U.S. Department of Agriculture revealed that Arizona alone had over 20,000 farms covering well over 26 million acres. The University of Arizona calculated that Arizona's agriculture industry contributes more than \$17 billion to the state's economy.

Thank you for considering our agricultural interests as you contemplate permanent protection of the Grand Canyon watershed in the coming months.

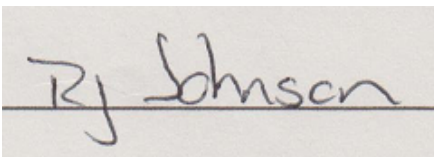
Sincerely,



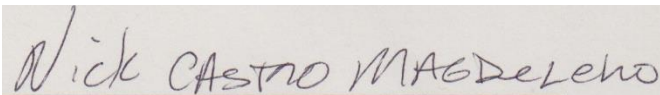
Dr. Bonnie Eberhardt Bobb, Western Sustainable Agriculture Working Group



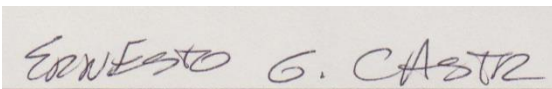
Ian Beger, Arizona Wholesale Growers, Scottsdale, AZ



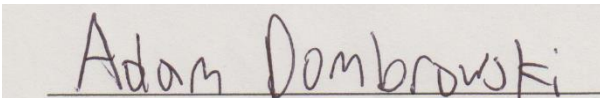
Rj Johnson, Blue Sky Organic Farms, Litchfield Park, AZ



Nick Castro Magdeleno, Tres Hermanos Ranch, Cornville, AZ



Ernesto G. Castro, Tres Hermanos Ranch, Cornville, AZ



Adam Dombrowski, Arizona Living Greens, Florence, AZ

CC: The Honorable Raul Grijalva, U.S. House of Representatives
Managing Director Christy Goldfuss, White House Council on Environmental Quality