

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

November 3, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representative
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I respectfully request, again, a hearing on H.R. 360, legislation I have introduced to establish the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument. Given your oft-stated view that only Congress should designate monuments, and recent recommendations from the U.S. Forest Service endangering the Greater Grand Canyon watershed, a hearing on this bill is more timely than ever.

My bill will create a national monument on public land surrounding Grand Canyon National Park and make permanent a 20-year moratorium on new mining claims established by Public Land Order No. 7787. A recent Forest Service report issued in response to Executive Order 13783 recommends rescinding the temporary withdrawal, which Interior Secretary Salazar ordered in 2012 after an extensive environmental review and public outreach process.

Rescinding the existing withdrawal, after only five years and without scientific or public review, would be irresponsible and threaten a watershed that provides drinking water to more than 20 million Americans. In addition to providing critical ecosystem services, the Grand Canyon contains a tremendous array of cultural resources and is sacred to Native Americans throughout the region. The National Congress of American Indians and the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona support H.R. 360 and deserve an opportunity to share their views with Congress prior to any change in the management of the area.


The Forest Service "report" identifies no alleged flaw in the extensive environmental analyses completed prior to the withdrawal and was not subject to scientific or public review prior to publication. Congress needs to know how the agency arrived at this suggestion and better

understand the impacts of reversing the withdrawal. A hearing on H.R. 360 would provide an ideal venue to achieve these goals.

I am attaching my hearing request from January, which did not receive a reply.

If the scientific analysis underlying the Forest Service's recommendation is sound, the Trump administration and House Republicans should welcome an opportunity to share that analysis with the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raúl M. Grijalva". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "G".

Raúl M. Grijalva
Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources