

February 15, 2021

Re: Havasupai Tribe's Support of the Grand Canyon Protection Act

Dear Members of Congress,

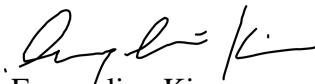
On behalf of the Havasupai Tribe, I am writing to express our full support for the Grand Canyon Protection Act. The Havasupai, Havasu 'Baaja, are the People of the blue-green water that emits from the Redwall-Muav aquifer at the springs on our Reservation and that flows through Havasu Creek cascading over the magnificent waterfalls on its way to the Colorado River. Traditionally, we lived and grew crops with water from the springs at Indian Gardens in Grand Canyon National Park. Today, water from the Redwall-Muav aquifer is the primary source for all water in the Village of Supai, including drinking, domestic use, tourism, and livestock.

The Havasupai Tribe has opposed a nearby uranium mine, the Pinyon Plain Mine (formerly Canyon Mine), for years. The mine is located in the Red Butte area, which is our traditional cultural property. The contamination from the mine has caused millions of gallons of precious water to be rendered unusable and wasted, and the mine has potential to contaminate the Redwall-Muav aquifer. As evidence of how strongly the Havasupai tribal members oppose uranium mining, we included a prohibition on mining, exploration, and surveying for uranium in the Constitution of the Havasupai Tribe.

The United States has a trust obligation to protect the Havasupai Tribe and an obligation to protect and preserve the Grand Canyon region, which cannot be met if mining is permitted to continue and increase on the Coconino Plateau. The Grand Canyon Protection Act will help protect our sacred lands and waters from the harmful and often irreversible effects of uranium mining. Although the Grand Canyon Protection Act does not address our most urgent need to stop the Pinyon Plain Mine, the Act is a significant step in the right direction as it will prevent any new or future mining on and around the Grand Canyon, which includes our home and our ancestral lands.

Thank you for your assistance with ensuring that the Grand Canyon Protection Act becomes law.

Sincerely,



Evangeline Kissoon
Havasupai Tribal Chairwoman