

HAVASUPAI TRIBAL COUNCIL

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HAVASUPAI TRIBE HAVASUPAI TRIBAL COUNCIL SUPAI, ARIZONA

Resolution No. 08-21

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT H.R. 1052 THE GRAND CANYON PROTECTION ACT TO PERMANENTLY BAN MINING AT THE GRAND CANYON

- WHEREAS, the Havasupai Tribe of the Havasupai Reservation, Arizona (“the Tribe”) is a federally recognized sovereign Indian nation that has existed since time immemorial; and
- WHEREAS, the Havasupai Tribal Council (“Council”) is empowered to act on behalf of the Tribe; and
- WHEREAS, the 1939 Constitution of the Havasupai Tribe of the Havasupai Reservation as amended (the “Constitution”) provides that the Tribal Council shall have the power to “adopt resolutions, not inconsistent with [the Tribe’s] Constitution and the attached By-laws,” at Article V, Section 1(h); and
- WHEREAS, the Tribe has historically prohibited mining, exploration, or surveying for uranium as evidenced by Article IX in the Constitution; and
- WHEREAS, 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; and
- WHEREAS, the Redwall-Muav aquifer underlies the Coconino Plateau, including underneath the uranium Pinyon Plain Mine (formerly Canyon Mine) and other proposed mines, and discharges 96% of its water directly to springs and into Havasu Creek on the Havasupai Reservation; and
- WHEREAS, there is contaminated groundwater at the Pinyon Plain Mine site and it may contaminate the Redwall-Muav aquifer resulting in direct contamination to the primary source of our water, which will harm our being as Havasu ‘Baaja; and
- WHEREAS, the water from the Redwall-Muav aquifer is the primary source for all water in the Village of Supai for drinking, domestic use, tourism, and livestock; and
- WHEREAS, the Council finds that the Secretarial Withdrawal of the federal lands around Grand Canyon was intended to provide scientific information about the effect uranium mining has on the land, water, wildlife, and people, but the studies have not been adequately funded and there is much to still be studied about the harms from uranium mining; and
- WHEREAS, the Tribe and its members will be the ones who suffer from the effects of uranium mining around the Grand Canyon; and

WHEREAS, we are the ones who lived and grew crops with water from the springs at Indian Gardens in Grand Canyon National Park and our aboriginal lands include the sacred site on which Pinyon Plain Mine is located; and

WHEREAS, we have always lived in our canyon, we cannot be relocated, and we will always remain here and remain Havasu 'Baaja; and

WHEREAS, we have opposed uranium mining in the area for decades and will continue to do so for all time; and

WHEREAS, the Pinyon Plain Mine has knowingly pierced shallow aquifers, and over the last several years approximately 40 million gallons of water have been contaminated and drained, leaving valuable water wasted and unusable; and

WHEREAS, the United States has a trust obligation to protect us 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.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tribe supports H.R. 1052 the Grand Canyon Protection Act and any similar federal legislation that will permanently ban existing, new, and future uranium mining and the establishment of new mining claims at, on and around, or in the Grand Canyon.

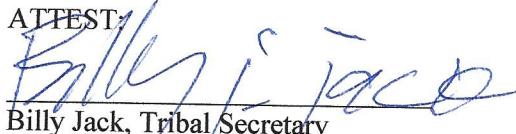
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Tribal Chairwoman, or in her absence, the Vice Chairman, is authorized and directed to sign all documents necessary to carry out the purposes of this Resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The Havasupai Tribe is a federally recognized sovereign Indian tribe. The foregoing Resolution is adopted pursuant to the authority of the Havasupai Tribal Council as set forth in Article V of the 1939 Constitution of the Havasupai Tribe of the Havasupai Reservation, as amended, and Article II of the Bylaws of the Havasupai Tribe. The Havasupai Tribal Council held a meeting in Supai, Arizona on the 19th day of February 2021, at which a quorum of 6 members present approved this Resolution by a vote of 6 for; 0 opposed; 0 abstained; and 1 absent.

HAVASUPAI TRIBAL COUNCIL:

By: 
Matthew Putesoy Sr., Vice-Chairman

ATTEST:

Billy Jack, Tribal Secretary
HAVASUPAI TRIBAL COUNCIL