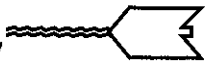




INTER TRIBAL COUNCIL



of

ARIZONA

RESOLUTION 0311

- MEMBER TRIBES**
 AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY
 COCOPAH TRIBE
 COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES
 FORT McDOWELL YAVAPAI NATION
 FORT MOJAVE TRIBE
 GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY
 HAVASUPAI TRIBE
 HOPI TRIBE
 HUALAPAI TRIBE
 KAIBAB-PAIUTE TRIBE
 PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE
 PUEBLO OF ZUNI
 QUECHAN TRIBE
 SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA
 INDIAN COMMUNITY
 SAN CARLOS APACHE TRIBE
 TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION
 TONTO APACHE TRIBE
 WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE
 YAVAPAI APACHE NATION
 YAVAPAI PRESCOTT INDIAN TRIBE

In Opposition to H.R. 1904, Proposing a Land Exchange in Southeastern Arizona for the Purpose of Mining Operations

WHEREAS, the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA), an organization of twenty tribal governments in Arizona, provides a forum for tribal governments to advocate for national, regional and specific tribal concerns and to join in united action to address those concerns; and

WHEREAS, the member Tribes of the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona have the authority to act to further their collective interests as sovereign tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the member Tribes of the ITCA have the charge to support the sovereign right of Indian nations, tribes, and communities on matters directly affecting them upon their request; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 1904, entitled "Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act of 2011", was introduced by District 1 Congressman, Paul Gosar, on May 13, 2011, to approve a federal land exchange to transfer to the ownership of Resolution Copper, a joint venture of two foreign mining companies, Rio Tinto, PLC and BHP Billiton, Ltd., over 2,400 acres of federal lands located within the Tonto National Forest for purposes of an unprecedented block cave copper mine; and

WHEREAS, the federal lands which are proposed to be exchanged, which are generally known as Oak Flat, are within the ancestral lands of certain Arizona Indian tribes, and these lands are of unique religious, cultural, traditional, and archeological significance to American Indian tribes in this region; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 1904 would require Congress to lift the decades old ban against mining within the 760 acres of the Oak Flat Withdrawal which was expressly set aside from mining by President Eisenhower in 1955 due to the lands value for recreation and other important purposes; and

WHEREAS, the mining proposed for Oak Flat will destroy the religious, cultural and traditional integrity of Oak Flat for American Indian tribes affiliated with the area, and it will cause serious and highly damaging environmental consequences to the water, wildlife, plants, and other natural ecosystems of the area; and

WHEREAS, the block cave mining method to be employed at Oak Flat will also cause the collapse of the surface of the earth and endanger the historic terrain at Apache Leap, Oak Flat, and Gaan Canyon, as well as in the surrounding country side; and

WHEREAS, the mining activity would deplete and contaminate water resources from nearby watersheds and aquifers leaving in its wake long term and in some cases, permanent religious, cultural and environmental damage; and

WHEREAS, although we are not opposed to mining in general, this *form of mining* and *mining in this location* does not make sense, is offensive to us, and would pose a danger to many important values of this region; and

WHEREAS, the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona has adopted resolutions in the past opposing this mining project at Oak Flat and the land exchange to be facilitated by H.R. 1904; and


WHEREAS, the San Carlos Apache Tribe, the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, the White Mountain Apache Tribe, and other Tribes have opposed this land exchange due to the environmental consequences to the land in the proposed mining area, as well as the harm to religious, cultural, archeological, and historic resources from the proposed mining by the huge foreign mining companies; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the member Tribes of ITCA oppose H.R. 1904, providing for a land exchange in southeastern Arizona for the purpose of mining by Resolution Copper; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the ITCA inform all appropriate Congressional Committees, the Arizona Delegation, and all appropriate state and federal agencies of and the reasons for this position.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was presented and duly adopted at a meeting of the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona on **May 20, 2011**, where a quorum was present.



Shan Lewis,
Vice-Chairman, Fort Mojave Tribe
President, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona