



# SUSANVILLE INDIAN RANCHERIA

June 17, 2011

*Via U.S. Mail and Facsimile*

The Honorable Doc Hastings  
Chairman  
House Natural Resources Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Fax: (202) 225-5929

The Honorable Edward Markey  
Ranking Member  
House Natural Resources Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Fax: (202) 225-1931

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
House Natural Resources Subcmte.  
on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Fax: (202) 225-5857

The Honorable Raul Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
House Natural Resources Subcmte.  
on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Fax: (202) 225-1541

The Honorable Don Young  
Chairman  
House Natural Resources Subcmte.  
on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Fax: (202) 225-0425

The Honorable Dan Boren  
Ranking Member  
House Natural Resources Subcmte.  
on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Fax: (202) 225-3038

***Re: Opposition to H.R. 1904, Southeast Arizona Land Exchange & Conservation Act***

Dear Chairmen Hastings, Bishop, and Young and Ranking Members Markey, Grijalva, and Boren:

On behalf of the Susanville Indian Rancheria, I write to express our strong opposition to H.R. 1904, captioned the "Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act of 2011." This legislation would convey over 2,400 acres of Forest Service land in Arizona to a mining company called Resolution Copper (RC), which is owned by foreign mining conglomerates Rio Tinto PLC (United Kingdom) and BHP Billiton Ltd (Australia). The mining company seeks to develop and operate an

unprecedented large-scale copper mine on this land if it is conveyed to it by the Forest Service. This public land has significant religious, cultural, historical, and archeological value to Western Apaches and other Native Americans in the region. At a minimum, this land should remain under federal jurisdiction for protection instead of being conveyed to a private company whose mining project will destroy this special area.

If Congress passes H.R. 1904, then RC will be able to mine this land with virtual impunity using block cave mining, which is one of the cheapest mining techniques available today. This form of mining will result in massive surface collapse of the area, causing irreparable damage.

We believe that H.R. 1904 sets a bad precedent for a number of reasons. It does not allow for meaningful consultation with Indian tribes that would be affected by the proposed conveyance. The federal government has a fiduciary responsibility to Indian tribes to protect places of significance to Native Americans under federal jurisdiction. Under no circumstance should the federal government convey these lands to others where destruction of the area will be the inevitable result and where future generations will have to deal with the mess.

Further, H.R. 1904 mandates that the Secretary of Agriculture convey to RC the land in question within one year of enactment of the Act without any studies or analyses on the proposed conveyance prior to the conveyance. Studies and analyses would assist in providing the public with information about the mining company's proposed mining project, the impacts of the mining on the land, water, cultural resources, animals, and plants, and the extent, quality, and value of the ore body below the surface of this land. These studies and analyses should be conducted before there are any decisions on whether to convey this land. RC should not be allowed to circumvent laws and policies designed to promote transparency and full consideration of impacts and consequences.

We therefore urge you to assist in ensuring that H.R.1904 is not enacted into law. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. We thank you for your consideration and for your efforts on this important matter.

Respectfully,



Mr. Stacy Dixon  
Tribal Chairman

cc: The Honorable Tom McClintock  
Member, House Natural Resources Subcmte.  
on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands  
Fax: (202) 225-5444



# SUSANVILLE INDIAN RANCHERIA

June 16, 2011

*Via U.S. Mail and Facsimile*

The Honorable Tom McClintock  
Member, House Natural Resources Subcommittee  
On National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Fax: (202) 225-5444

***Re: Opposition to H.R. 1904, Southeast Arizona Land Exchange & Conservation Act***

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If Congress passes H.R. 1904, then RC will be able to mine this land with virtual impunity using block cave mining, which is one of the cheapest mining techniques available today. This form of mining will result in massive surface collapse of the area, causing irreparable damage.

We believe that H.R. 1904 sets a bad precedent for a number of reasons. It does not allow for meaningful consultation with Indian tribes that would be affected by the proposed conveyance. The federal government has a fiduciary responsibility to Indian tribes to protect places of significance to Native Americans under federal jurisdiction. Under no circumstance should the federal government convey these lands to others where destruction of the area will be the inevitable result and where future generations will have to deal with the mess.

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We therefore urge you to assist in ensuring that H.R.1904 is not enacted into law. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. We thank you for your consideration and for your efforts on this important matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacy Dixon", written in a cursive style.

Mr. Stacy Dixon  
Tribal Chairman