

**ALL INDIAN PUEBLO COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION 2011 - \_\_\_\_\_**

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

**WHEREAS**, the All Indian Pueblo Council ("AIPC") is comprised of the Pueblos of Acoma, Cochiti, Isleta, Laguna, Jemez, Santa Ana, Sandia, San Felipe, Santo Domingo, Zia, Zuni, Nambe, Picuris, Pojoaque, Santa Clara, San Ildefonso, Ohkay Owingeh, Tesuque, Taos and 1 Sovereign Pueblo, Ysleta Del Sur, located in the State of Texas and each possessing inherent government authority and sovereignty over their lands, and

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

**WHEREAS**, H.R. 1904, entitled "Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act of 2011", would approve a federal land exchange to transfer to the ownership of Resolution Copper 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 religious and 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**, the National Congress of American Indians, the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, the United South and Eastern Tribes, the San Carlos Apache Tribe, and other Arizona and New Mexico Tribes have opposed this land exchange due to the harm to religious, cultural,

archeological, and historic resources, as well as the environmental consequences to the land from the proposed mining activities; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the All Indian Pueblo Council Governors firmly commit their support to oppose H.R. 1904: Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act of 2011, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the AIPC will inform all appropriate Congressional Committees, the New Mexico Delegation, and all appropriate federal agencies of and the reasons for this position.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the officers of AIPC are expressly authorized to take any and all steps necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution immediately.

### **CERTIFICATION**

I, Chairman Garcia of the All Indian Pueblo Council, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution 2011- \_\_\_\_ was considered and adopted at a duly called council meeting held on the \_\_\_\_ day of August 2011, and at which time a quorum as present and the same as approved by a vote of \_\_\_\_ in favor, \_\_\_\_\_ opposed, \_\_\_\_ abstained and \_\_\_\_\_ absent.

**ALL INDIAN PUEBLO COUNCIL**

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**Joe A. Garcia, Chairman**

ATTEST:

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Secretary/Treasurer, Leroy Arquero