

Honorable members thank you for taking the lead to remove the obstacles that stand in the way of the economic recovery of Arizona. I am Buster Johnson Chairman of the Mohave County Board of Supervisors in Arizona and the Co Chairman of the Arizona/Utah Economic Coalition. If it was not for mining it is a pretty good bet that Arizona would have waited a long time to be inhabited. As early as 1583 silver ore was being discovered in Arizona by the Spanish. As of 1981 490 million troy ounces of silver were mined in Arizona with only 10% of this being from silver mines. Silver was a byproduct of gold, copper and other mining operations. We have continued to mine precious metals and six years after statehood in 1912 uranium oxide was discovered. Since then tens of millions of pounds of uranium oxide have been mined.

At today's prices billions of dollars of wealth have been added to our economy from mining. This money has made the state you see today. Without it we would not have progressed to where we are. In all these years of mining we have gotten better at safety and protecting the environment. We are at the point now in my county where you cannot find a mining site after it has been reclaimed. Our mining companies are awarded and recognized for their safety. We have set state and federal standards and inspectors verify the outcomes. Mining Companies take pride protecting the environment because it makes good business sense.

So why is the Secty of the Interior removing a million acres of employment and wealth from Arizona? Why is he cancelling the Arizona wilderness act of 1984? An act that was agreed upon by all local, state, tribal, federal governments along with conservationists, naturalist, environmentalist and citizens.

Mohave County and our neighboring Utah Counties in the Arizona Strip are fighting for survival. Unemployment is at 25.6% on the Hualapai Reservation. The Navajo Reservation is over 50%. The number of people living below the federal poverty level is pushing 40% in this area.

Mohave County is looking at a \$4 million drop in revenues this year. We have lost 9 % in the last 2 yrs. Sales tax revenue has dropped 10% in the last 2 yrs.

Secty Salazar touts tourism jobs but tourism jobs have seen a significantly smaller gain in employment 1.6% over the last few years. The secty wants our people to work in the tourist industry which makes them slaves to the government for their survival. Tourism jobs are seasonal and their wages are a third of what they would make at their chosen profession, mining. They need government assistance to survive on tourist jobs. They cannot support a family on tourism wages.

Those working in the mining industry are the back bone of America. They are proud people who believe in family. They believe in being good citizens and paying their own way. They do not want handouts. They raise their kids with values. They live within their means. They take pride in their communities. They invest in those communities'. They shop locally improving the living standards of those around them.

Small business has closed up in our area. Our people do not have the money to purchase new cars, fix up their homes or in a lot of cases even buy sufficient food for their families. This adds to the

depression as now the folks who are trying to make it must travel farther distances to get basic necessities thus dimensioning their value of their dollar because of added fuel costs.

Under Presidential proclamation the Grand Canyon Parachant National Monument was established taking away another almost 2million acres for economic development. This land was removed with no coordination with local governments'. There was over 300 billion tons of clean burning coal along with natural gas and crude oil on this public land. The benefit to our economy is that now 500 visitors a year take advantage of hiking this area.

These actions are not only an attack on my citizens they are an attack on the survival of our country as more and more easily obtainable and safely mineable natural resources are taken away. Each act is making us more dependent on foreign countries and weakening our strength as a nation.

I believe that mining created Arizona and is the key to bringing it back the quickest to a financially sound state.

We ask that you allow our citizens, who don't want a hand out, to return to work in their mining profession. Let them become the proud Arizona and Utah families they were and contribute over \$29 billion to the economy of our great country.