



INTER TRIBAL COUNCIL

of

ARIZONA

RESOLUTION 0716

Support for H.R. 2262: Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2007

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
TONTON APACHE TRIBE
WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE
YAVAPAI APACHE NATION
YAVAPAI PRESCOTT INDIAN TRIBE

- 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 federal Mining Law of 1872 prioritizes mining as the highest and best use of federal public lands resulting in federal land managers giving preference to mining over all other important land values including the protection of water, wildlife, forestry, fisheries, and recreational activities; and
- WHEREAS,** The federal Mining Law of 1872 makes no consideration for the recognition and protection for the cultural, historical, treaty and spiritual relationship American Indians have with federal lands managed by the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** Hardrock mining has resulted in significant impacts to tribal, cultural and natural resources throughout Western Regions—polluting 40% of surface waterways and an undetermined amount of groundwater, depleting, aquifers, springs and other water sources, as well as contaminating the land and the air, disrupting safe grazing areas, harming fisheries, displacing wildlife, and destroying important sacred sites; and
- WHEREAS,** The 1872 Mining Law contains no federal or tribal environmental standards or reclamation criteria, compounded by other federal laws not addressing specific impacts from mining; and
- WHEREAS,** There are over 50,000 abandoned mines in the U.S., many of which represent a threat to public safety and an on-going source of pollution to the environment, resulting with many states and some Tribes having to identify financial and technical resources to seek mine closure, reclamation and clean-up, and water treatment; and
- WHEREAS,** There is no federal funding dedicated nor mandated for reclamation of abandoned hardrock mines; and
- WHEREAS,** The House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Nick Rahall (D-WV) and Subcommittee of Energy and Mineral Resources Chairman Costa (D-CA) have introduced H.R. 2262 to reform the 1872 Mining law so it meets the needs of Tribes and others in the 21st Century; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Raul Grijalva successfully included an amendment during the mark-up of HR 2262, in the House Natural Resources Committee, to grant Tribes the same authority as states and their political subdivisions to petition the Secretary of Interior to withdraw lands of religious and cultural value to the Tribes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Tribes in Arizona support H.R. 2262—"The Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2007," and request a swift passage of HR 2262, in the U.S. House of Representative and the U.S. Senate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Tribes in Arizona support the amendment introduced by Congressman Grijalva which protects sacred sites recognized by Tribes in Arizona, and request that the amendment be protected in any future version of the bill as passed by the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the forgoing resolution be transmitted to the Arizona Congressional Delegation, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, the House Natural Resources Committee, the National Congress of American Indians, and any other entity the President of the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona deems appropriate.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was presented and duly adopted at a meeting of the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona on **October 26, 2007**, where a quorum was present.



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