



STATE OF ARIZONA

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October 16, 2008

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

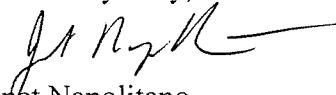
Dear Secretary Kempthorne,

It is with great disappointment that I learned rather than address the concerns of the State of Arizona in regard to protection of one of our greatest treasures, the Grand Canyon National Park, you chose to put forth a proposal to rescind 43 C.F.R. 2310.5 (Rule) and to provide a mere 15 days for public input.

In my letter dated March 6, 2008, I expressed concerns about the potential impact of uranium claims on the waters of Grand Canyon National Park. The 2,215 new mining claims filed within 10 miles of the Park could pose a significant threat to one of our greatest treasures. My request was simple -- to withdraw these lands from new claims and to conduct an analysis to determine whether or not mining these claims would have an environmental impact. This is a responsible request and in the best interest of the Park, State, Country and indeed the mining industry. Your response dated May 22, 2008 claimed you did not have authority to withdraw these lands and that you needed action by the House Committee on Natural Resources or the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources under rule C.F.R. 2310.5. On June 25, 2008 the House Committee on Natural Resources took the necessary action that should have resulted in your withdrawal of these lands to provide time for much-needed analysis.

I urge you to withdraw your proposal published in the Federal Register on dated October 10, 2008 to rescind the Rule or at a very minimum to allow a reasonable amount of time for public comment. Clearly 15 days does not meet that goal, rather a public input period for a proposal of this magnitude should be at least 90 days. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lori Faeth, Sr. Policy Advisor at 602-542-1334 or lfaeth@az.gov.

Yours very truly,


Janet Napolitano
Governor