

Dear Colleague:

When President Theodore Roosevelt, speaking about the Grand Canyon, said, "Leave it as it is. You can not improve on it. The ages have been at work on it, and man can only mar it." He was right. As co-chairs of the National Parks Caucus, we are writing to you to support a motion prohibiting new mining outside Grand Canyon National Park.

On July 20, 2009, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar issued a two year segregation order limiting new mining claims on approximately one million acres of federal public lands adjacent to Grand Canyon National Park. The moratorium limited mining to existing, proven claims on these adjacent lands. On June 28th, 2011, after the Environmental Impact review, Secretary Salazar extended the 2009 moratorium for six months and stated he would soon recommend that 1 million acres adjacent to the Grand Canyon be withdrawn from mineral entry for twenty years. This decision, in our view, is in the best interest of protecting one of America's great natural treasures.

With almost 5 million visitors coming from all over the world, the Grand Canyon stands out as an iconic part of the American landscape. A recent listing of the 15 best places for American families to go on vacation by the *US News* website placed the Grand Canyon at the top of their list. *National Geographic* named it the number 1 location for an outdoor vacation. For millions of Americans, the Grand Canyon is, unquestionably, a must see place to visit.

The Grand Canyon is a special place that deserves our attention, so it is protected for future generations. Please work with us to help take this language out of the Interior Appropriations bill and ensure that this unparalleled place is left unspoiled for our children and grandchildren.

Sincerely,



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Dave Reichert
Member of Congress