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U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

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July 15, 2009

The Honorable Raul Grijalva,
Chairman,
Subcommittee on National Parks,
Forests and Public Lands
1324 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Grijalva,

On July 21, 2009, our subcommittee will hold a legislative hearing on your bill H.R. 644, that would remove a million acres from development of uranium resources. Recently, I was surprised to learn that no one from the Administration will testify at this hearing.

I share your desire to protect the Grand Canyon, but is there a reason why we will not hear testimony from the National Park Service and the new Administration?

In an effort to ensure that all views are represented in the debate, I request that the National Park Service, and in particular Steve Martin from Grand Canyon National Park, be invited to participate. I am aware that Mr. Martin testified at a field hearing on this issue last year, but it seems fair to allow him to update our Subcommittee on the current goals of the Department of the Interior under the new Administration. Although I am unaware of any scientific expertise Mr. Martin has in the field of uranium mining, he continues to use his position as Superintendent of Grand Canyon National Park to make public statements regarding his belief that proposed mineral exploration creates a risk to the park. Without National Park Service's views, we cannot adequately evaluate your legislation.

Additionally, as this process moves forward, the Subcommittee should gather all the necessary facts on which to base our deliberations. I have also requested that Dr. Karen J. Wenrich, a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, and Dr. Madan M. Singh, Director of the Department of Mines and Mineral Resources for the State of Arizona, testify before our committee regarding their decades of on-the-ground, scientific expertise on uranium mining.

I appreciate your consideration on this matter and look forward to working collaboratively on this issue in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rob". The letters are cursive and fluid, with the "R" being particularly large and stylized.

Rob Bishop,
Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on National Parks,
Forests and Public Lands