

Congressional Hearings April 8, 2010 Shrine Auditorium Grand Canyon, Arizona

My name is Carletta Tilousi, I am enrolled member of the Havasupai Tribe. The Havasupai Reservation consists of 185,000 acres and have approximately 600 enrolled tribal members. I was born and raised in Supai, Village located at the base of the Grand Canyon. For many centuries, the Havasupai Tribe have lived and roamed many parts of the Grand Canyon. As a child, I retraced my ancestor's footsteps by visiting many parts of the Grand Canyon either by horseback, foot, or by vehicle. I learned the Havasupai Tribe, has many historical and religious sites along the rim of the Grand Canyon. Many of these sacred sites are being threatened by international uranium mining companies seeking for uranium. We also fear, that the uranium mines on the rim of the Grand Canyon will contamination our main water source Havasu Creek. Many families depend on Havasu Creek for human consumption and farming purposes. Many families living in Supai, Village are dependent on Havasu Creek, which also drains directly into the Colorado River. For this reason, we the Havasupai Tribe are gravely concerned about the existence of the human life and animal life in the bottom of the Grand Canyon.

On January 2010, the Governor of Arizona Janice Brewer publically announced that she supports uranium development on the rim of the Grand Canyon. As a result, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) has issued permits for Denison Mining Company to extract uranium at the Arizona 1 mine site located on the north rim of the Grand Canyon. We understand, that the uranium mining permits were issued base on 20 year old environmental assessment complete 20 years ago. Since then, the people of Supai Village have experienced major flooding coming from the rim of the Grand Canyon. That is direct evidence that uranium contamination will seep into the main water source and immediately contaminate residence of Supai, Village. Many families depend and consume Havasu Creek and the Colorado River. As a result of mining activity, people downstream are also at risk of uranium contamination.

Furthermore, the 1872 Mining Law is archaic and needs to be changed. This mining law allows easy access for mining companies to gain access to Federal Lands and aggressively stake uranium claims all around the Grand Canyon region. Currently, there is 95,000 uranium claims both on the North and South rim of the Grand Canyon. We hope the congressional representatives will help support the efforts of the Havasupai Tribe and support in amending this ancient law.

In addition, our most sacred mountain Red Butte "Wii Giidwissa" is located on the Kaibab Forest Service Land. For the past several years, Denison mining has been approved to conduct numerous exploratory drilling for uranium surrounding the Red Butte area. This type of action by any mining company is sacrilegious to the Havasupai creation stories. We believe uranium exploration can contaminate the many species of wild animals and plant life. Canyon mine located on Kaibab Forest Service Land is located on Five miles from Wii Giidwissa. Denison Mining Company is taking steps to obtain any necessary permits from the ADEQ. The Havasupai have been involved in long lengthy court legal battles with the ADEQ and eventually got denied in the United States Supreme Court based on the Freedom of Religion.

Over the years, I learned about the history of my people by visiting old camp sites and sacred religious areas that remain a special part of my people's legacy. Many of these sites are now currently on Federal and National Park Lands, which we want protected and preserve for our future generation. For many years my people have endured many hardships. We have witnesses all our lands being taken from us, now we are faced with our lives being taken from us. Please help support the Havasupai Tribe in taking steps to preserve the waters, sacred sites, and the Grand Canyon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carletta Tilousi, Tribal Council Member

Havasupai Tribe