



Black Mesa Trust

*"Paatuaqatsi
Water is Life"*



TO: Senator Krysten Sinema, Senator Mark Kelly, Representative Raul Grijalva
CC: Secretary Deb Haaland, Secretary Tom Vilsack, Chair Brenda Mallory
September 22, 2022

Dear Honorable Members of Congress,

It is an honor to present to you the attached letter, signed by over 200 faith leaders from across our state, supporting the responsible stewardship of our sacred lands in the Grand Canyon region.

Since 1999, we at Black Mesa Trust have been working to address the severe environmental impact on the Navajo Aquifer caused by certain mining operations. Not only is the Hopi Reservation in geographic proximity to the aquifer and the canyon, we are in spiritual proximity. We believe all waters: the aquifers, the springs, the lakes, the rivers, the oceans, the rain, the snow are joined together. All work in harmony to sustain life.

Originally, our work was focused on Peabody Energy's coal operation. Today, our land and water is threatened by uranium mining, the consequences of which may be devastating to the Indigenous communities living in the Grand Canyon region.

No matter the threat, Black Mesa Trust will pursue our mission to safeguard, preserve and honor the sacred land, culture and water of the Hopi People, and we are immensely grateful to have your leadership in the Senate on this issue so close to our hearts.

Sincerely,
Vernon Masayesva
Founder and Director, Black Mesa Trust
Former Chairman, Hopi Tribe



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CC: Secretary Deb Haaland, Secretary Tom Vilsack, Chair Brenda Mallory
September 22, 2022**

Dear Honorable Members of Congress,

In faith and hope, I respectfully submit the attached letter from faith leaders around Arizona, urging you to continue working towards the responsible stewardship of the Grand Canyon region.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. Out of our call to “do justice” (Micah 6:8), we strive to demonstrate the fullness of God’s shalom through living out our faith by caring for God’s creation.

On a personal level, having grown up in Arizona, I was transformed by my first visit to the Grand Canyon at age 10. I regularly return, viewing my trips as a pilgrimage to a holy place where I feel a connection to the Source of all that is. I would be personally devastated, as well as weeping for all of humanity, if the Grand Canyon becomes commercialized, defaced, or damaged.

You both have demonstrated immense courage to justly care for the people and lands of our state through the introduction of and advocacy for the Grand Canyon Protection Act. Though the intent of these efforts have not yet been realized, we all have faith that your continued advocacy will be successful in protecting the Grand Canyon region from the devastating impacts of uranium mining, and we support you fully in executing all action in your power to do so.

If it would be helpful, I would be happy to talk further with you.

Sincerely,
Rev. Dr. Jay R. Hartley
Regional Minister and President
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Arizona
Tucson, AZ



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CC: Secretary Deb Haaland, Secretary Tom Vilsack, Chair Brenda Mallory
September 22, 2022

Dear Honorable Members of Congress,

Today, I am proud to present the attached letter of support for the responsible stewardship of the Grand Canyon region, signed by over 200 leaders of diverse faith traditions across Arizona.

I am a member of Tempe Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), but as many of my cosigners believe, we are all in one community. No matter how many miles we are from the Grand Canyon, as individuals, and as communities, we stand in solidarity with our friends in the canyon region.

As Quakers, we are known for living our testimonies, grounded in truth, holding firmly to peace and justice with the power of nonviolence. There are many ways to engage in violence against one another and contaminating a community's resources needed to survive is one of them. In acknowledging that reality when we discuss protecting the Grand Canyon region from uranium mining, we see that ensuring protection is nurturing peace for those who live in the region as well as all who visit and engage with the canyon. That includes even my own community, all the way down here in Tempe.

Please receive this letter with the utmost gratitude for your continued advocacy for the Grand Canyon Protection Act and your efforts to permanently ban uranium mining in the Grand Canyon region.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Reinhardt

Member of Tempe Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

AFN Board Member representing Arizona Half-Yearly Meeting (AHYM) of the Religious Society of Friends (Arizona)

FCNL General Committee Member co-representing Intermountain Yearly Meeting (IMYM) of the Religious Society of Friends (4 Corners States)



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Dear Honorable Members of Congress,

As Arizonans and people of faith, we strongly believe in the “Green Rule” and believe it should be followed to protect one of our greatest natural and spiritual treasures: The Grand Canyon. We are grateful for your leadership in introducing versions of the Grand Canyon Protection Act. We ask that you do everything in your power to advance this monumental piece of legislation and permanently protect the Grand Canyon.

Just as the “Golden Rule” calls for us to not only examine our own actions towards others in our lives but also the wider communal systems and services to ensure they are just; the “Green Rule” calls us to not only care for the environment ourselves but to work for broader communal political policies and practices to protect sacred land.

Here in Arizona, according to many beliefs, there is no more widely known and sacred place than the Grand Canyon. The Canyon is one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. It is a critically important watershed that provides millions of people water and serves as home to an incredibly diverse mix of plants and wildlife.

Despite a 20-year moratorium on uranium mining in 2012, new claims threaten the Canyon and its surrounding lands. The only way to truly protect it is to follow the “Green Rule,” which means we must permanently protect this wonder of creation.

We ask you to continue working to advance the Grand Canyon Protection Act and do everything in your power to protect the Grand Canyon. It is long overdue for all of us to come together, regardless of faith or political ideology, and protect one of the most awe-inspiring creations in our great state of Arizona and our nation.

Sincerely, the undersigned:

Arizona Faith Network
Arizona Interfaith Power and Light
City Square Church, Phoenix, United Methodist
First Congregational Church, Phoenix, United Church of Christ
Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Phoenix
Justa Center, Phoenix
Ktizo United Church of Christ, Phoenix Ktizo United Church of Christ
Lutheran Advocacy Ministry AZ (LAMA), Phoenix, Lutheran
National Council of Jewish Women AZ, Scottsdale, Jewish
Nurture The Children, Indigenous

Our Lady of Guadalupe Monastery, Sisters of St. Benedict, Catholic-Independent, Maryvale
St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Community, Phoenix
St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church, Tucson
Taos United Community Church, Taos,
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix
Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Glendale
Adam Burke, Phoenix
Amina Donna Kruck, Tempe, Tara Dhatu/ Inayatiyya Order
Anita Burnett, Glendale, Dove of the Desert, United Methodist Church
Ann Acosta, Glendale
Ann Johnson, Flagstaff
Ann Ochse, Tucson
Ann Sawyer, Phoenix, Haku Un Ji Zen Center, Buddhist
Anne Gooden, Tucson Barbara
Anne McGeough, Scottsdale
Arene Rushdan, Goodyear, Seventh Day Adventist Church
Arthur Carter Rogers, Tempe
Beky Masayesva, Kykotsmovi, Hopi
Beth Hatcher, Carefree
Beth Malmgren, Sun City
Bette Ryan, Sun City West
Billie Fidlin, Phoenix, United Methodist Church
Bonnie Green, Sun City, United Church of Christ
Canon Lisa Derrick, Maryvale, Episcopal
Carol Consalvo, Scottsdale, Jewish
Carolyn Modeen, Sun City, United Church of Christ
Chaplain Thomas Chapman, Phoenix, Episcopal
Char Hoffman, Prescott, Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Charles Ruth, Scottsdale
Cheryl Kriegshauser, Scottsdale
Cheryl Merrill, Mesa
Chris Beauchene, Tucson, St Francis Methodist
Christine Wibowo, Scottsdale
Colter Wood, Glendale
Constance Sahadi, Gilbert
CV Villanueva, Scottsdale
Dale Volz, Gilbert
Darrel Zuke, Tucson, Episcopal
David Coatsworth, Tucson, Saguaro Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
David Hulin, Glendale
David Simmons, Peoria
David Stabenfeldt, Clarkdale
David Topping, Tempe, United Methodist
Debby Carapezza, Tucson, Episcopal Church
Debra Pallack, Yuma, United Methodist Church
Dee Fletcher, Tucson, Christian
Diane Boman, Prescott, Democratic Women of the Prescott Area

Donald Bebber, Tucson
Donna (Amina) Kruck, Tempe
Donna Andersson Davis, Sun City West, Unity
Donna Killoughey Bird, Scottsdale
Dorakee Ewing, Tempe
Dorothy Montgomery, Tucson, United Methodist Church
Dorothy Wellington, Phoenix
Dr. Alison Marshall, Paradise Valey
Dr. Anne Pierce, Prescott
Dr. Barbara Sickles, Scottsdale
Dr. Beth Acree, Tucson, Progressive Christian
Dr. James Ewing, Phoenix, Desert Palm United Church of Christ
Dr. John Leech, Tucson, Saint Andrews Episcopal
Dr. Mario Acosta, Tucson, Catholic Charities
Dr. Mary Ann and Frank Graffagnino, Prescott, Sacred Heart, Prescott
Dr. Mary Ann Weber, Prescott Valley
Dr. Nancy Wellmeier, Mesa
Dr. Richard Wing, Scottsdale, United Church of Christ
Dr. Sally Rings, Phoenix, Christian
Eleanor Sergi, Tucson Frank Bergen, Tucson
Elizabeth Hatcher, Carefree, Good Shepherd of the Hills, Episcopal Church
Ellen Sherman, Phoenix
Emily Key, Phoenix, World Pantheism Movement, Pantheism
Emma Onawa, Rimrock
Fred Taylor, Glendale
Gail Bird, Mesa, United Church of Christ
Gail Turner, Phoenix
George R. Sexton, Glendale
Glenda Davis, Scottsdale
Gloria Schley, Mesa
Grace Bunker, Tucson
Gretchen Reinhardt, Tempe, Tempe Friends Meeting, Quaker
Gwen Garrett, Peoria, Religious Science
Hannah Miller, Tempe
Holly Nipperus, Phoenix
Ina Merson, Tucson, Rincon Congregational, United Church of Christ
Ingrid Wimmer, Scottsdale
Irene Little, Green Valley, United Church of Christ Good Shepherd Sahuarita, AZ
Irma Leyendecker, Phoenix
James Kimes, Prescott Valley
Jana Tarter, Tucson
Jane Melkonoff, Phoenix
Janis Richert, Tucson
Jeanette Mathias, Tucson, St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church
Jeanne Festa, Sierra Vista, Desert Southwest Conference, United Methodist Church
Jeanne Marie Mudd, Tucson
Jeannette Haasarud, Phoenix, Church of the Beatitudes (United Church of Christ)

Jeff Stiles, Phoenix
Jennifer Jones, Phoenix, UU Congregation of Phoenix
Jennifer Magnano, Gilbert
Jens Larson, Phoenix
Jerry Waters, Chandler
Jo Vredenburg, Mesa
Jo Wroblewski-Mullis, Tucson, United Methodist Church
Joan Fenton, Phoenix
Joan Stoner, Flagstaff
Jon Stetson, Tucson, St. Francis in the Foothills, Christian
Joseph Freeman, Paradise Valley, Temple Solel, Jewish
Joseph Keesecker, Phoenix
Jovita Fine, Prescott, Catholic – Independent
Joyce Conrad-Leissring, Tucson, St Francis in the Foothills, United Methodist Church
Joyce Suggs, Phoenix
Judi Erlandsen, Sun City
Judi West, Tucson, United Methodist Church
Judith Conley, Surprise, Union of Black Episcopalians
Judith holt, Tucson, United Methodist Church
Judith Robinson, Tucson, St Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church
June Webb-Vignery, Tucson, St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist
Karen Bliss, Tucson, St. Francis in the Foothills,
Karen Johnson, Phoenix
Karen McLaughlin, Phoenix
Kate Kosse, Marana, St. Francis in the Foothills, United Methodist Church
Kathleen Keys, Mesa, Victory Lutheran Lutheran Church
Kathleen Skelly, Phoenix
Kay Klinkenborg, Sun City Church of the Palms
Khalil Rushdan, Goodyear
Kris Sanchez, Tucson
Laura Hudson, Tempe
Laurel Hardin, Mesa, Unitarian Universalism
Leo Graff, Goodyear
Lily Villa, Tempe
Linda Hanus, Payson, Mount Cross Lutheran Church, Lutheran
Linda Katzenstein, Phoenix
Linda McCargar, Yuma, Yuma United Church of Christ
Linda Risseuw, Tempe
Linda Schloss, Tucson, Rincon Congregational, United Church of Christ
Linda Sexton, Glendale, Foothills Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Lu O'Meara, Scottsdale, Catholic - Independent
Lynn Brysacz, Phoenix
Madaline Chandelle-Hansen, Phoenix, Faith Lutheran Church, Lutheran
Margaret Mcchesney, Phoenix, Pax Christi & AFN, Catholic-Independent
Margaret Olson, Tucson, St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church
Marilyn Crawford, Mesa
Marilyn Riggs, Phoenix

Mary Bielsik, Phoenix
Mary Lou Brncik, Camp Verde
Mary Patterson, Sun City, Desert Garden United Church of Christ
Melissa Mitchell, Tucson
Michael Powell, Sun City, Franciscan Renewal Center
Michaelyn Shirey, Phoenix
Morgan Follett, Chandler
Myrtle Cross, Tucson, United Methodist Church
Nancee Noel, Sun City, Religious Science
Nancy Cantor, Scottsdale
Nancy Marshall, Phoenix
Nancy Meister, Yuma
Nancy Nonini, Sun City, Church of the Palms United Church of Christ, United Church of Christ
Nancy Splain, Phoenix
Nancy Stevenson, Tucson
Noel Floresca, Tucson, St. Francis in the Foothills, United Methodist Church
Oscar De Los Santos, Laveen
Pamela Shipp, Scottsdale
Pastor Gina Pollard, Phoenix, United Methodist
Pastor Othell Newbill III, Phoenix
Pastor Sarah Stadler, Phoenix
Pat Riemer, Chandler, Desert Palm United Church of Christ
Patricia Presley-Spade, Fountain Hills, The Fountains United Methodist Church, Fountain Hills
Paul Baranko, Phoenix
Paul Rockower, Phoenix, Judaism
Peggy Hesley, Phoenix, Shadowrock Phoenix, AZ
Peggy Pierce, Phoenix
Priscilla Small, Oro Valley, Oro Valley United Church of Christ
Ramona Smith, Tucson, United Church of Christ,
Rev (Ret.) Clinton Reynolds, Sun City, The Church of the Palms, United Church of Christ
Rev Jose Olagues, Chandler, Grand Canyon Presbytery - Presbyterian Church USA
Rev Steven Davis, Scottsdale, United Church of Christ
Rev. Amy Barron-Gafford, Tucson, United Methodist Church
Rev. Bekah Krevens, Glendale, Foothills Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Rev. Carol Reynolds, Scottsdale
Rev. Corey Meier, Mesa, The Church of the Epiphany, Tempe
Rev. Doug Bland, Tempe, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Rev. Dr. Donna Cavedon, Sedona, United Church of Christ
Rev. Dr. Eric Ledermann, Chandler, University Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Rev. Dr. Jay Hartley, Tucson
Rev. Dr. Tom Martinez, Chandler
Rev. Dr. Tricia Tedrow, Payson
Rev. Elizabeth DeWeese, Mesa, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Rev. Gay Romack, Litchfield Park
Rev. Jenny Wynn, Scottsdale, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Rev. Kate Lehman, Glendale

Rev. Katie Sexton-Wood, Glendale, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Rev. Kim Crecca, Tucson, Episcopal Church of St. Matthew, Episcopal Church
Rev. Michael Lonergan, Tucson, United Church of Christ
Rev. Richard Wilson, Tucson Rita Montgomery, Tucson
Rev. Rula Colvin, Mesa
Rev. Sandra Britton, Scottsdale
Rev. Scott Fischer, Phoenix
Rev. Susan Anderson-Smith, Tucson, Imago Dei Middle School, Episcopal Church
Rev. Susan Valiquette, Phoenix, First Church (United Church of Christ)
Rev. Sylvia Harris, Phoenix, Wesley United Methodist Church
Rev. William Pierce, Phoenix
Reverend Sandi Britton, Scottsdale, Scottsdale Congregational United Church of Christ
Reverend Susan Princehouse, Surprise, Church Of The Palms, United Church of Christ
Rivko Knox, Phoenix, Judaism
Robert Longoni Jr., Mesa, Guardian Angels Catholic Faith Community
Robert Wall, Glendale, Franciscan Renewal Center, Roman Catholic Church
Roberta A. Fitzgibbon, Flagstaff, Flagstaff Federated Community Church
Ronn Enzweiler, Sun City
Ruth Wootten, Tempe
Salena Petersen-Keesecker, Phoenix, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Sandra Lambert, Scottsdale
Sarah A. Danielson, Tucson, St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church
Sarah King, Flagstaff, Flagstaff Federated Community Church
Sarah Webster, Phoenix
Sat Bir Kaur Khalsa, Tucson, Sikhi
Shannon Sullivan, Tucson, St Francis in the Foothills, United Methodist Church
Sharon Koch, Phoenix
Sharon Konen, Sun City West
Shawn Pierce, Phoenix
Shelly Gordon-Gray, Mesa
Shirley Jensen, Scottsdale, Scottsdale Congregational United Church of Christ, United Church of Christ
Shirley Lowman, Phoenix, St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, Roman Catholic Church
Shuru Vasu Bandhu, Phoenix, Dhammapada, Zen Buddhism
Sister Mary Elizabeth Lawrence, Tucson
Sister Nancy Wellmeier, Mesa, Roman Catholic Church
Steven Finger, Flagstaff, Quaker
Sue Jensen, Tucson
Susan Doherty, Scottsdale
Suzanne Boisclair, Sun City, Church of the Palms - United Church of Christ
Tara Jensen, Scottsdale
The Rev. Jana Sundin, Phoenix, Episcopal Church
Theresa Paszkiewicz, Phoenix
Timothy Griffy, Phoenix
Timothy Schmaltz, Phoenix, United Church of Christ
Tina Austin, Fort McDowell, Indigenous Peoples Day AZ
United Methodist Church

Vernon Masayesva, Kykotsmovi, Hopi
Vickie Ashenbrenner, Sun City, Church of the Palms, Christian
Virginia Encila, Tucson
Wendy Gonzales, Tucson
Wendy Johnson, Phoenix
Wendy Kreider, Tucson, Saint Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church
William Utke, Sun City, United Church of Christ