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October 12, 2011

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
1011 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3508

Re: *Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act of 2011*

Dear Speaker Boehner:

The Northwest Mining Association (NWMA) urges the immediate House Floor consideration of H.R. 1904, the *Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act of 2011*. At a time when job creation is the highest priority, H.R. 1904 is a common sense solution that will provide tremendous economic benefits to Arizona and the Nation.

NWMA is a 116 year old, 1,800 member, non-profit, non-partisan trade association based in Spokane, Washington. NWMA members reside in 42 states, including Arizona and Ohio, and are actively involved in exploration and mining operations on public and private lands, especially in the West. NWMA's broad membership represents a true cross-section of the American mining community from small miners and exploration geologists to both junior and large mining companies. More than 90% of our members are small businesses or work for small businesses. Most of our members are individual citizens.

H.R. 1904 exchanges lands between NWMA member Resolution Copper, the federal government, the State of Arizona and the town of Superior, Arizona. The land exchange provides Resolution Copper 2,422 acres for future copper mining while allowing for the protection of environmentally sensitive lands throughout Arizona, all while supporting the Town of Superior's vision for economic development.

According to a recent study conducted by Elliot D. Pollack & Company, the Resolution Copper project is estimated to have a total economic impact on the State of Arizona of more than \$61.4 billion, or nearly \$1 billion each year, and another \$20 billion in federal, state, county and local tax revenue. The copper mine will directly employ approximately 1,400 individuals when the mine reaches full production, and the ripple effect of direct operations will support an additional 2,300 jobs each year over the life of the mine. From beginning to end, over \$14.1 billion in wages will be generated.

In addition, the Resolution Copper project will produce enough copper to equal 25% of the current U.S. demand. Copper is a critically important metal used in the production of electronics, transportation, machinery and renewable energy technologies. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, we currently are 30% import reliant for our copper needs.

The U.S. can and should be more self-reliant for the minerals we need. Despite reserves of 78 important mined minerals, the United States currently attracts only 8 percent of worldwide exploration dollars. As a result, our Nation is becoming more dependent upon foreign sources to meet our metal and minerals requirements, even for minerals with adequate domestic sources such as the Resolution Copper project.

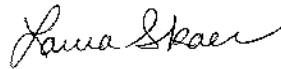
A healthy and vibrant domestic mining industry is indispensable to the economic security of the United States. Mining creates new wealth and the high-paying jobs our country desperately needs. Moreover, the indirect employment multiplier for the mining industry is twice the national average.

Historically, the mining industry leads the nation out of recession; and is poised to do it again. President Obama's own Council on Jobs and Competitiveness recently acknowledged in their interim report that mining is the only industry sector to have added jobs since December 2007. The bottom line is mining projects provide an economic stimulus package that won't require deficit spending or cost taxpayers a dime.

Mr. Speaker, enable Resolution Copper to move forward with their jobs-creating project. Please move for immediate House Floor consideration of the *Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act of 2011*.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Skaer".

Laura Skaer
Executive Director