



STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

June 2, 2020

The Honorable Jim Hubbard
Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Under Secretary Hubbard,

Thank you for all that you and the Department of Agriculture are doing to help the economy recover and advance key job creating projects. One such project that I would like to draw your attention to in Arizona is the Resolution Copper Project. This is a vital project for economic development that will also ensure a reliable supply of copper and other critical minerals for the nation. The project is estimated to be able to supply up to 1 billion pounds of copper annually, which represents 25% of the U.S. domestic demands. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) estimates that the total direct and indirect economic impacts to the State of Arizona over will total \$1 billion per year. I am grateful for the prompt attention that the USFS has given to the long, thorough, and transparent permitting process.

I am seeking your assistance to ensure that the permitting process continues to proceed forward as it nears the final stages. The schedule for complying with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process including the preparation of an EIS was set forth in 2015 under the previous administration, and the final EIS was to be delivered in June of this year. It has come to my attention that very recently staff at the Tonto National Forest have communicated a delay in the final EIS into next year. This latest delay is concerning and I ask for your continued commitment to ensure the publication of the Resolution Copper Final Environmental Impact Statement and Land Exchange this summer.

I respectfully request your prompt attention to this matter and would appreciate updates to my office on its progress. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor
State of Arizona

Cc: Vicki Christiansen, Chief, U.S. Forest Service