



**Conservatives
for
Property Rights**

July 17, 2019

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva and Ranking Member Bishop:

Conservatives for Property Rights (CPR), a coalition of organizations representing millions of Americans, strongly opposes H.R. 1373, H.R. 2181, and H.R. 3405.

CPR emphasizes the central importance of private property in all its forms — physical, personal, and intellectual. The right to private property ranks among the unalienable rights the Founders referenced in the Declaration of Independence. Importantly, property rights involve good stewardship of public property, making those resources available to private parties to advance national competitiveness and security by putting our natural resources to those ends.

H.R. 1373, the so-called “Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act,” would permanently ban oil, natural gas, geothermal, uranium, and other minerals in Arizona. These extremely value deposits include rare earths, critical minerals, copper, and a 326,000,000-acre uranium reserve that contains the largest tract and highest grade uranium in the nation. The United States today stands dangerously dependent on China and other foreign countries. Not only would this legislation advantage adversaries, it would deprive Americans of the economic development, jobs, expansion of our manufacturing base, and economic growth from using these natural resources for the advancement of our national interests.

H.R. 2181, the “Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act,” would permanently ban oil, natural gas, coal, and other minerals from federal leasing and future development on 316,000 acres in New Mexico. It also permanently terminates leases in the area that have yet to go into production. This legislation threatens foolhardy deprivations and adverse effects on individuals, private companies willing to extract these wonderful blessings that create new wealth and add new value, Indian tribes, local education, and governments at all levels to which taxes are paid because of resulting economic activity.

H.R. 3405, the “Uranium Classification Act,” would permanently remove uranium from the critical minerals list and prevent it from ever being relisted, regardless of national security or economic circumstances. H.R. 3405 unwisely risks U.S. national and energy security, leaving us reliant on countries under Russian and Chinese influence to meet our uranium needs.

*“protecting the exertions of talents and industry . . . securing to them their justly acquired fruits”
— Alexander Hamilton*

Therefore, Conservatives for Property Rights vigorously opposes H.R. 1373, H.R. 2181, and H.R. 3405 and urges the committee's and Congress's rejection of this dangerous, counterproductive legislation.

Respectfully,

James Edwards
Executive Director
Conservatives for Property Rights

Matthew Kandrach
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