

How you can help move Save Oak Flat legislation out of committee.

Thank you for your willingness to lobby to save Oak Flat. It's very exciting to know that there is now a bill in both the House and the Senate to repeal the legislative language that promised Oak Flat to a foreign mining company. But the process for a bill to become a law is a long, hard battle.

We can't just expect Congress to fix this for us; we, the people, have to let our Congress know we are strong in our belief that it's wrong to let this situation go unchecked. We have to back Grijalva, Sanders, and Baldwin up and get as many Congresspeople as we can to help push these bills out of committee and onto the floor where they can be discussed in the light of day, before all of America. Until these bills make it to a place where they can be considered by the entire Congress, it isn't safe to think they will save Oak Flat.

Here are a few suggestions to help you lobby for your opinion:

Visit in person if possible. Visiting in person puts the most emphasis behind your words. If you can visit in person, be sure to call ahead and make an appointment. If the representative isn't available ask to speak to the person on staff who is handling inquiries about Oak Flat.

Bring information to leave behind that has a way for your Congressperson or their staff to learn more. You can print the attached handout and use that as your supporting information if you like.

Respectful language is the most effective. You have a right, some would say a duty, to make sure your Rep knows what you want. They are supposed to be representing you, not a foreign mining company.

Some Reps and Senators are easier to talk to than others. If you are lobbying someone whose opinions don't align with yours, don't give up. **Stay polite and be clear,** you have a right to your opinion and a lot of people are behind you as you speak up. Politicians have to be elected, if they start hearing a lot of people come and tell them they want a certain thing, they eventually change their minds. Maybe one person's opinion won't change their mind, but many will.

If you'd like some talking points, **three great reasons to protect Oak Flat** are:

1 – Religious Freedom. The religious freedom of a large group of Native Americans is under threat. As the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Religious freedom isn't safe in America if only select religions are protected. According to the National Congress of American Indians, Oak Flat is a sacred place and should be protected. It's not just an Arizona issue or even just an Apache issue, it's an issue of protecting religious freedom for one and all.

Do you have personal experience that makes this especially important to you? Share that with your Representative. You won't have a whole lot of time, so be sure to get to the point – you are entitled to speak your mind.

2 – Environmental Protection. Arizona is experiencing a drought so this is the worst time to start draining sources of clean water. Oak Flat is part of a natural landscape that includes a rare riparian desert ecosystem, a kind of land that exists in less than 1% of Arizona.

1 acre ft. of water is 325,853 gallons. Resolution Copper claims they will use as little as 18,000 acre ft. per year. In the past it has been 40,000 acre ft. 18,000 acre ft. = 5,865,354,000 gallons of water per year. Say "NO LANDSWAP" We need our water!

3 – Copper Profits Given Away. If we want to talk about mining, we should not be talking about making deals with foreign companies who will take the profits overseas, and who can walk away from future responsibility for cleanup or toxic waste. Say NO to Resolution Copper, a British/Australian conglomerate whose supporters include China and Iran.

After you explain WHY Oak Flat matters, remember to clearly make the following asks:

Ask your SENATORS to co-sponsor and support S. 2242, the Save Oak Flat Act.

Ask your REPRESENTATIVE to co-sponsor HR 2811, the Save Oak Flat Act, and ask for a hearing on the bill.

Lobbying via the internet and snail mail

If you can't make it to your Congressperson's office, you can still let them know what you think and that helps A LOT. Copy and paste the attached sample letter into your email and send your thoughts that way. Or print the letter out, sign, and send that way. Reps and Senators do track the amount of mail they receive stating different opinions. The more they hear from us, the better. One letter won't likely change things much, but 100 will. Send your letter and you'll know you've done something to protect Oak Flat that counts.

Together we are stronger.

Dear *(Name of Representative or Senator)*,

I am writing to you in opposition of the privatization of the southern section of the Tonto National Forest, which could soon be the site of a large mine headed by Resolution Copper.

This is an issue of preserving our national forests and lands. As more and more of our country becomes developed for the harvest of natural resources and the expansion of our communities, it is crucial that we protect the wild areas that are still left. The people of this country never consented to giving away any national forest land. These areas are meant to be open to all.

Oak Flat and the surrounding areas are sacred to the San Carlos Apache tribe and destroying this land would be devastating as it has been a part of their culture for generations. In addition, the copper mine will affect one of our most precious resources: water. Groundwater will be removed to keep the mine shafts dry, and contaminated tailings will be left behind.

Oak Flat is home to a variety of wildlife that must be protected, including the endangered Arizona Hedgehog Cactus. Oak Flat is also a popular tourist destination for people from all over the world, from climbers to birders.

Please take a stand in preserving our country's public spaces and protecting the right to religious freedom. We ask that you repeal the legislation that gave away this precious land by co-sponsoring and supporting (*H.R. 2811 for the House OR S. 2242 for the Senate*), the "Save Oak Flat Act."

Sincerely,

(Name)

(Address)