

MONEY
TRAILS



The Arizona
Mining
Association

Background

The Arizona Mining Association (AMA) purports to be the primary advocate for mining in Arizona while pushing to make the state the premier location for mining investments and development.

The association's Executive Director, [Steve Trussell](#), is a known advocate for uranium mining in northern Arizona, [dangerously](#) close to the Grand Canyon. Trussell even pushed back on [thoughtful](#) criticism concerning mineral mining around the Grand Canyon, calling attacks "[disingenuous](#)." He has also previously defended the [controversial](#) Rosemont Copper Mine, [promising](#) it would bring about economic activity, without much evidence to back such an assertion up.

His association, the AMA, supports reversing Obama-era mining withdrawals and advocates for rollbacks to the Endangered Species Act. Ultimately, Trussell and AMA push against the voices in Arizona advocating for America's public lands and outdoor heritage. While [claiming](#) that mining is sustainable and responsible, the AMA is simultaneously working to gut public land and wildlife protections. This extractive resource association is dangerous and influential, putting Arizona's outdoor heritage at stake.

The Arizona Mining Association Claims To Be Arizona's "Primary Advocate" For The State's Mining Industry And Works On Legislative And Regulatory Issues

The Arizona Mining Association's (AMA) Mission Says It Is "The Primary Advocate Of The Arizona Mining Industry." "To be the primary advocate of the Arizona mining industry through promoting sound public policy at all levels of government, educating the public about the benefits of mining and supporting the sustainability of a safe and responsible mining industry." [Arizona Mining Association, [accessed 09/25/19](#)]

AMA's Executive Director, Steve Trussell, Supports Uranium Mining Near The Grand Canyon

Trussell Was Featured In A Letter Written By Arizona Rep. Paul Gosar Requesting President Trump Reverse The Ban On Grand Canyon Uranium Drilling. In June 2018, it was reported the Trump administration would revisit the 2012 moratorium on new mining claims. Arizona Rep. Paul Gosar wrote a letter to the Trump administration ask that the Obama-era mineral withdrawals be reviewed and

reversed. "Gosar's letter featured Steve Trussell, the executive director of the Arizona Mining Association, and other mining advocates." [Phoenix New Times, [06/19/18](#)]

- Trussell Pushed For Uranium Mining In Northern Arizona. "Without mentioning the Grand Canyon by name, Trussell argued that the U.S. should start to plumb rich deposits of uranium mining in northern Arizona." Trussell wrote, 'Northern Arizona's unique breccia pipe geological formations represent the nation's largest source of high-grade uranium ore. The current reality is that America's nuclear power industry imports approximately 92 percent of the uranium it uses from foreign sources. Given domestic availability of this uranium, importing this material defies all reason. America has more than enough uranium within our borders to supply our own needs. Responsible domestic uranium mining followed by reclamation will provide great benefits for our country's electric power needs, local economies and the environment. America's nuclear power plants are clean and release no carbon emissions, making these deposits in northern Arizona an almost perfect remedy for our electricity-dependent

nation." [Phoenix New Times, [06/19/18](#) and Congressional Western Caucus Press Release, [05/04/18](#)]

AMA "Generally Supports" Weakening The Endangered Species Act

Trussell Said AMA Generally Agreed With The 2019 Proposed Changes Which Would Weaken The Endangered Species Act. In January 2019, it was reported that proposed changes to the ESA included streamlining consultation with federal agencies, tightening the definition of "foreseeable future," potentially shrink critical habitats, make it easier to remove a species from the ESA list and see threatened species no longer receiving the same protections as endangered ones. "Arizona Mining Association Executive Director Steve Trussell, for one, said the group 'generally supports the proposed rules, which would provide greater clarity and predictability in listing species and designating critical habitat.' But he added that the agencies 'can and should do more to address certain issues that affect' the mining industry." [E&E, [01/23/19](#)]

Arizona Mining Association

PRO

Uranium Mining
Around the
Grand Canyon

ANTI

Wildlife and
Public Lands
Protections

Learn more about Arizona's public lands and the Arizona Mining Association at MoneyTrails.org.