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## **Hopi Tribal Chairman Honanie on Recommendation Opening Uranium Mining at the Grand Canyon**

KYKOTSMOVI, AZ – Hopi Tribal Chairman Herman G. Honanie released a statement following the U.S Department of Agriculture's recently published report to President Trump recommending lifting the 20-year ban on uranium mining:

“On behalf of all *Hopisinom* (the Hopi People) I must express my profound disappointment in the recent recommendations made by the USDA, Forest Service to rescind the ban on uranium mining within the watershed of the Grand Canyon. The thought of reversing that ban and opening the area up to uranium mining is indefensible. *Ongtupqa* (Grand Canyon) holds a significant place in Hopi history, culture and religion since the beginning of time, when Hopi ancestors first emerged into the Fourth World. The significance of the association has remained throughout Hopi prehistory, history and to the present day. It must be stated that any attempt to exploit *Ongtupqa* demonstrates a lack of simple, fundamental respect and reverence of this significant cultural and geographical landmark. *Hopisinom* and many other Native American people suffer an ongoing legacy of death by cancer, chronic health problems, and radioactive contamination including water contamination on tribal lands. We know first-hand from our own experience that the contamination will travel, that it does not stay in one place, and that it spreads contamination as it moves. We hold the position that the federal government should clean up and reclaim existing contaminated sites before it promotes renewed uranium mining.”

The 1872 mining law is a 19th Century tool of archaic law used to “discover,” “claim,” and “take” Native Americans’ lands, and continues today as a policy of disregard and disrespect toward the beliefs and sacred ties that Hopi and Native American people have with the Earth. The legacy of uranium mining has devastated the people and the land, and the 1872 mining law continues to destroy the land and lives of *Hopisinom*, Native Americans, and Americans alike.

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