

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-38

A RESOLUTION OF THE FLAGSTAFF CITY COUNCIL OPPOSING URANIUM MINING AND THE TRANSPORTATION OF URANIUM ORE THROUGH THE CITY OF FLAGSTAFF AND INDIGENOUS LANDS, AND REAFFIRMING FLAGSTAFF AS A NUCLEAR FREE ZONE

RECITALS:

WHEREAS the transportation of uranium ore through Flagstaff could put Flagstaff residents at risk; and

WHEREAS advocating for and supporting actions that lead to the advancement of social and environmental justice for the Indigenous Community is a City Council Goal; and

WHEREAS in meetings with various Indigenous Community members and regional tribal nation neighbors, the dangers of uranium mines and the transport of uranium ore including from the Colorado Plateau uranium mines to the White Mesa Mill in Blanding, Utah continue to be topics of great concern and discussion; and

WHEREAS the City Council supports the Havasupai Tribe's opposition to uranium mining and the transportation of uranium ore in the Grandy Canyon region; and

WHEREAS the Mayor and City Council of Flagstaff have historically opposed actions furthering radioactive pollution in the region including by passing Resolution 2010-74, which expressed support for Secretary of Interior Salazar's proposal to withdraw approximately one million acres of federal lands surrounding Grand Canyon National Park from uranium mining for 20 years, and Resolution 2245, which urged President Clinton and Congress to continue on-site storage of high-level nuclear waste and declaring Flagstaff a Nuclear Free Zone; and

WHEREAS during the Cold War, 30 million tons of uranium ore were mined on or adjacent to the Navajo Nation leaving more than 500 abandoned mines; and

WHEREAS many Indigenous Community members already affected by living in close proximity to abandoned uranium mines are still seeking relief, radioactive waste in these areas has remained for decades at many of the mines creating elevated levels of radiation;

WHEREAS potential health effects of uranium mining include lung cancer from the inhalation of radioactive particles as well as bone cancer and impaired kidney function from exposure to radionuclides in drinking water; and

WHEREAS Congress acknowledged that radiation exposure from the mining, transport and processing of uranium has affected and continues to affect thousands of individuals and in 1990 passed the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) to provide compensation to individuals who have developed and are developing cancers and other serious diseases caused by uranium mining.

ENACTMENTS:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF FLAGSTAFF AS FOLLOWS:

THAT the Flagstaff City Council affirms its opposition to uranium mining and the transport of uranium ore and other radioactive materials from the Canyon Mine to the White Mesa Mill near Blanding, Utah and reaffirms Flagstaff as a Nuclear Free Zone; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Flagstaff City Council desires to actively work to advance social and environmental justice for the Indigenous Community and stands ready to engage in conversations and take actions that support solutions that directly benefit the Indigenous Community; and

FURTHERMORE the Flagstaff City Council calls upon the United States Department of Transportation to change its policies and statutes on the transport of hazardous materials, specifically uranium, to protect Northern Arizona and its diverse population.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Flagstaff this 7th day of November, 2017.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CITY ATTORNEY