**TO: Governor Katie Hobbs, engage@az.gov**

**CC:** Robyn Sahid, Commissioner, Arizona State Land Department, rsahid@azland.gov

**CC:** Kris Mayes, Arizona State Attorney General, AGInfo@azag.gov

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Dear Governor Hobbs,

I respectfully request that you take all actions necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of the citizens of Arizona by directing the Attorney General’s office and the Arizona State Department of Land to do everything necessary to revoke the right-of-way improperly given by ASLD to Hudbay for the purposes of transporting toxic mining waste across the Santa Rita Experimental Range.

Save the Scenic Santa Ritas and Farmers Investment CO are currently suing ASLD for having illegally granted Hudbay this right-of-way in contravention of state law that specifies that the Santa Rita Experimental Range be used only for ecological and rangeland research, not to benefit the plans of foreign mining companies.

Note on Sept. 9, 2024 a Maricopa County Superior Court Judge determined that the Arizona State Land Department’s Board of Appeals violated the Open Meetings Law when it approved the valuation for a right-of-way across state land for Hudbay’s Copper World mining project. The fact that ASLD is still fighting for this illegal right-of-way shows the agency’s extreme bias toward mining companies at the cost of Arizona’s citizens.

**I request that you direct the Attorney General to drop its defense of ASLD’s actions when it approved the right-of-way, direct ASLD to acknowledge that it broke the law in granting Hudbay this right-of-way, direct ASLD to revoke the right-of-way.**

If Hudbay retains this right-of-way, their plan is to place a 500-foot-tall of toxic tailings 600 feet from the nearest home and 1.4 miles from a primary school in Corona de Tucson. These tailings will contain poisonous materials like lead, arsenic, and cadmium, that will be especially dangerous to children. It is certain that when the strong Arizona winds blow toward the town, this dust will enter the lungs of people living there.

**Please also note that Hudbay is a foreign mining company that will be extracting profits from our state while putting at risk the environment, health, and the local economy.** Housing prices are certain to drop near the mine.

**The Copper World mine complex will destroy the northern half of the Santa Rita Mountains.**  The series of open pit mines will devastate lives of people living near the sprawling project. People would have to uproot their families, selling their homes at a loss. Those who stay would have to live with the threat of toxic air and groundwater pollution.

Copper World would pump billions of gallons of groundwater per year that is essential to local agriculture and communities like Corona de Tucson and Sahuarita. It would seriously harm the $2.4 billion-a-year tourism industry, destroy Native American sacred sites, and leave behind a devastated landscape. This mine is opposed by the City of Tucson, Pima County, the Tohono O’odham Nation, Pasqua Yaqui Tribe and the Hopi Tribe.

Sincerely,