

News Release**For Immediate Release**

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Congressman Trent Franks (AZ-R) together with 30 other Members of the House, introduced H.R. 5665, legislation that would lift the threat of a moratorium on uranium mining in northern Arizona

July 9, 2010

Kanab, UT – ACERT applauds the perceptive and farsighted efforts of Congressman Trent Franks (AZ-R), who, together with 30 other Members of the House, introduced H.R. 5665 on July 1, 2010. This bipartisan legislation would lift the suspension of any new uranium exploration and mining activities in northern Arizona imposed by Interior Secretary Ken Salazar in 2009. It would also lift the threat of a moratorium. The withdrawal of these lands can only make the U.S. even more dependent on foreign countries while worsening an already serious vulnerability in America's national security.

Uranium is the key natural resource necessary to produce nuclear energy and northern Arizona is home to the richest and most significant uranium deposits in the United States. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, northern Arizona uranium resources total 326 million pounds or enough to power the entire state of Arizona for 79 years. The grade of these deposits average 0.66% of U3O8, which is by far the highest grade of uranium reserves anywhere in the United States.

In 1984, Congress passed the Arizona Wilderness Act, which specifically recognized the uranium potential of 490,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands and 50,000 acres of Forest Service lands in northern Arizona by releasing them from wilderness study classification so they could be mined. The Arizona Wilderness Act was a collaborative effort that included the mining, livestock and timber industries, the National Parks Conservation Association, the Wilderness Society and the Sierra Club. Since then, all uranium mining activities on these lands have produced an impressive record of productive operation and successful reclamation without adversely impacting the environment or National Parks.

Citing President Obama's call for the construction of new nuclear power plants, Congressman Franks stated, "it is astonishing to me that the Administration would nevertheless move to ban uranium mining in the most significant known uranium ore reserves in America. Currently, over 90% of our operating reactors receive their uranium supply from *foreign countries*, many of whom are unfriendly to America and unsympathetic to American interests."

Franks continued by saying, "by prohibiting exploitation of northern Arizona reserves, the Obama Administration strategically weakens America's long-term national security and our ability to be energy self-sufficient. It also seriously calls into question President Obama's supposed commitment to increase our domestic nuclear energy production in order to protect America's national security."

The American Clean Energy Resources Trust (ACERT) is a coalition of concerned private citizens who, together with uranium exploration and mining companies, believe in the importance of maintaining a viable and environmentally responsible uranium mining industry that will continue to benefit the economic health and long range energy security of the United States.

Our mission is to inform and educate both the public at large and our elected representatives about the multiple benefits of clean, affordable nuclear energy and the consequent need for continued domestic uranium exploration, mining and processing.

For more information, visit our web site at <http://www.ACERTgroup.com>

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American Clean Energy Resources Trust

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