

JOHN McCAIN  
ARIZONA

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES  
COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH,  
EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS  
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY  
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

## United States Senate

December 1, 2009

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
304 Senate Dirksen Building  
Washington, DC 20510

241 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0303  
(202) 224-2235

5353 NORTH 16TH STREET  
SUITE 105  
PHOENIX, AZ 85016  
(602) 952-2410

4703 SOUTH LAKESHORE DRIVE  
SUITE 1  
TEMPE, AZ 85282  
(480) 897-6289

407 WEST CONGRESS STREET  
SUITE 103  
TUCSON, AZ 85701  
(520) 670-6334

TELEPHONE FOR HEARING IMPAIRED  
(602) 952-0170

Dear Chairman Bingaman:

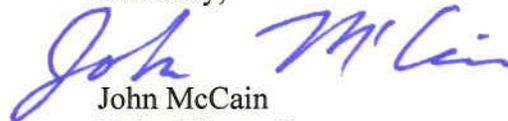
As a member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I'm writing to request that you include S. 409, legislation regarding the Resolution Copper Project in Arizona, on the agenda of your next business meeting. This legislation is of tremendous importance to the people of Arizona and the nation.

S. 409 is the product of years of debate and negotiation. Over the past four years, the land exchange proposal has received multiple hearings in Congress, including most recently before the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests on June 17, 2009. Please understand that the people of Arizona cannot afford to wait any longer for Congress to act on this legislation. Arizonans are facing historic unemployment rates, and the promise of job opportunities and economic growth connected to this project will help ease the economic suffering of many hard-hit families.

I acknowledge that there were a handful of concerns raised by the Forest Service at the June 17<sup>th</sup> hearing, but all of these issues appear to be resolvable to the Administration's satisfaction in the very immediate future. It is also my understanding that discussions between our staffs have yielded achievable grounds for compromise on several of your most pressing concerns. As you know, I have provided you with proposed language that corresponds with your draft amendment. Therefore, there is no reason to continue delaying the advancement of a compromise version of S. 409 at the Committee's next markup.

Thank you for your attention to this important, long-overdue legislation.

Sincerely,



John McCain  
United States Senator

Cc: The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Ranking Member