



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, June 7, 2022

**DURANGO, CO** -- In response to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources [Public Lands, Forests & Mining Subcommittee Legislative Hearing](#) today, [The Mountain Pact](#), an organization that works with local elected officials in over 80 communities across the Western U.S., released the following statements:

**Flagstaff City Council Member Jim McCarthy said**, *“The Grand Canyon is one of the seven natural wonders of the world. As a local elected official, and lover of the Canyon, I am glad the Senate Energy and Natural Resources sub-committee has finally taken up the [Grand Canyon Protection Act](#), a bill that would permanently ban mining around this treasured National Park. I, and over [two-thirds of Arizona voters](#), support making the ban on new mining near the Grand Canyon permanent.”*

**Anna Peterson, Executive Director of [The Mountain Pact](#) said**, *“We are eager for many of the bills from the [Grand Canyon Protection Act](#), to the [Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Expansion Act](#), as well as many of the bills in today’s Senate ENR subcommittee’s hearing, to move quickly to a full committee vote and pass quickly in the Senate. Passage of these bills are important to western communities as protecting public lands has always been a bi-partisan effort and one that all Americans can celebrate.”*

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*Founded in 2014, [The Mountain Pact](#) mobilizes local elected officials in over 80 Western mountain communities with outdoor recreation based economies to speak with a collective voice on federal climate, public lands, and outdoor recreation policy.*