

Samuel Courtney

Dear Arizona Department of Environmental Quality,

Me and myriad of concerned individuals are perplexed about how elected and appointed officials are choosing to use our state's ephemeral water supply. In recent years it is becoming increasingly vital to protect what limited quantities of the objectively paramount resource we relish in. It is no well kept secret that, most unfortunately, our population will continue to grow exponentially; furthermore with a population base using more gallons of water per capita moreso than nearly every other contiguous state it becomes apparent that a decision must be made about how we collectively choose to spend this resource. Either we relentlessly discard the approximate volume of water that the entire Tucson metro area's population uses yearly in what is close to perpetuity for the lifespan of individuals aged enough to vote, all in a vain effort to produce materials that are already widespread in electronic waste (should manufacturers be responsible enough to recycle them), or we choose to be the harbingers of a habitable environment for our children to appreciate and subsist in. How many morally condemnable transgressions have been made in the name of economic development? South 32 claims that their "Hermosa Project" will bring 1000 jobs to our region; well I ask how is it beneficial to have a thousand jobs now and eliminate millions of jobs within the next century when our water has been sucked dry by the highest bidding malevolent benefactor, and the land is a desolate dust heap no longer arable or habitable. I hear time and again arrogant or perhaps paid politicians in our state speak of how it is critical to become energy independent, to be able to produce minerals that can be used to bolster manufacturing domestically, yet not once have I heard these people speak about how virtually all raw minerals are processed by foreign adversaries; nor how the majority stockholders of the Canadian South32 are active PRC members. So again I cannot help but ask, if this project will inhibit actual energy independence, squander a nearly unimaginable volume of water, destroy local communities ground water supply, eject toxic discharge downstream into the environment, eliminate one of the most biodiverse habitats in the country, and barely produce a single neighborhoods worth of jobs, all for minerals that if recycled in last year's phone waste alone could've built over 100,000 electric vehicles, then why is it even being considered. I plea, beg even, that the water rights permit not be relinquished to an enemy of our communities, end the cycle of perpetual development that ends only in the complete and utter destruction of Arizona.

Sincerely,

Samuel Courtney