

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0301

February 26, 2016

Mr. Jonathan B. Jarvis
Director
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Ms. Stephanie Toothman
Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Jarvis and Ms. Toothman:

We write once again to ask for the formal withdrawal of the Pinal County, Arizona property being considered for a listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

As you know, we wrote in June 2015 and again on February 1, 2016 with similar requests. We appreciate you heeding some of our concerns by returning the redacted and flawed June nomination to the Forest Service for "some technical corrections". We also appreciate Keeper Toothman's response in a letter to our offices on February 5, 2016 indicating that the Park Service would be extending the review period for the nomination for 30 days until March 4, 2016.

In Keeper Toothman's response she also stated, "The Keeper will announce this extension in a new Federal Register Notice that will be processed as quickly as possible for publication. Please further note that this Federal Register Notice will identify the historic district by its common name (Oak Flats) as well as by the name the Keeper finds to be its more historically appropriate Indian name *Chi'chil Bildagoteel*."

We would like to note that, to date, more than three weeks after your letter was sent, this extension still has not been formally published in a new Federal Register Notice. While a pending unpublished notice filed February 25 indicates this extension is finally likely to be published and announced in the Federal Register next week on February 29 and will include the name "Oak Flats", such action would only provide formal notice to our constituents of five days prior to the end of the comment period.

Furthermore, we would like to point out that the common name should be referenced as "Oak Flat" not "Oak Flats". "Oak Flat" was suggested to the Park Service previously by the Forest Service in a letter sent to our offices dated August 18, 2015 responding to our June 2015 letter. Opponents of the nearby Resolution Copper mine have also introduced a bill titled "Save Oak Flat". As such, we believe the common name should be referenced "Oak Flat" not "Oak Flats".

Given the lack of detail and notice at every stage of these filings, it has been impossible for our constituents who may be affected to participate in any public comment process on this matter.

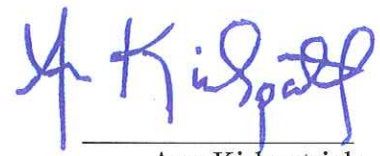
Again, we would like to reiterate our request for removal of this nomination. If your agency chooses not to grant this bipartisan request, we request that the comment period be extended for an additional 30 days from the time the extension is actually published in the Federal Register as Keeper Toothman indicated would be the case in her February 5, 2016 letter. Such action is necessary for our constituents to have adequate notice and time to comment on this potential listing.

We appreciate your attention and request a formal response to this letter as soon as possible. As always, we ask that this matter be handled in strict accordance with agency rules, regulations, and guidelines.

Sincerely,



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

Enclosure

cc:

J. Paul Loether, Chief, National Register of Historic Places/National Historic Landmarks