PAUL COOK
8TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

1222 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5861

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–0508

California Energy Commission
DOCKETED
09-RENEW EO-1
TN # 74593
FEB 19 2015

February 19, 2015

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Docket No. 09-RENEW EO-01
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
docket@energy.ca.gov

Bureau of Land Management
Vicki Campbell, DRECP Program Manager
2800 Cottage Way, Ste. W-1623 Sacramento, CA 95825
Email: vlcampbell@blm.gov

RE: Including Minerals and Mining Representatives as Federal Stakeholders in the DRECP and Other Land-Use Planning

Dear Vicki,

I'm writing this letter to object to the exclusion of minerals and mining representatives as a federal stakeholder in the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan. Additionally, mining interests have been ignored when designating Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, units of the National Landscape Conservation System, Desert Wildlife Management Areas, and the West Mojave Plan. This has prevented miners and mining interests from having a voice in the important planning processes that shape our desert. In particular, the exclusion of the California Desert District Mining Coalition (CDDMC) is troubling. The CDDMC has been the voice for minerals and mining in California, and any land use planning in the California desert should include them at the table, particularly in light of the 1872 Mining Law 30USC22-54 .

The CDDMC has represented minerals and mining organizations and clubs for many years. It and its affiliates represent a substantial number of miners and mining claims in California (over 17,000 active papered mines) and have organized the Mining Districts of 19 states. This was done under the federal designation of the Minerals and Mining Advisory Council (MMAC). The participation of the CDDMC in the land use planning processes identified earlier would bring an important voice for resource development to these discussions. In these times of recession and anemic recoveries, jobs have been cited by both sides of the aisle as the priority for government. Few industries produce as many high-paying long-term jobs as the mining industry, and I am certain that CDDMC's participation would lead to an increase in the number of mining industry jobs.

I am urging you to take immediate corrective action to assign minerals and mining representatives from MMAC and/or currently CDDMC to your committees and Mapping Organizations. Additionally, I ask that you conduct the proper public hearings and obtain proper public input to include the mineral and mining representatives as authorized federal stakeholders before enacting any rules, regulations, or restrictions that may unlawfully impact the National Mineral and Mining Policy Act 30USC21(a) not excluding the National Security Interests that may exist in **Strategic and Critical Materials Stockpiling**

Act 50 U.S.C. 98 et seq. & 98(c) to prevent further harm from being done to the California mining industry.

Minerals and mining representatives must be recognized as Federal Stakeholders in all public land multiple use decisions, and I urge you to act quickly to ensure that this happens.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 202-225-5861.

Regards,

Col. Paul Cook (Ret)
Member of Congress

cc:

Department of Interior (DOI)
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
California Energy Commission (CEC)
California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Desert Advisory Council (DAC)
California Desert District Mining Coalition (CDDMC)
Defense Logistics Agency (DLA)