

## **Superior Town Council Concerns Regarding the Southeast Arizona Land Exchange Legislation**

August 1, 2013

Have you asked yourself what is your duty to maintain, protect and move forward? Where do your loyalties lie, to whom will we send our future generations to for help and answers if we don't work towards maintaining, protecting and moving our town forward?

In Superior we have a serious question to ask of ourselves and of our fellow residents, what is our responsibility, as a resident and how can we fulfill our duty to maintain, protect and move forward for the benefit of all the residents of the Town of Superior?

These questions affect all of us as residents. Imagine our next few years of possible growth, booming business, new homes flattened by the ever present economic turmoil. Business growth and money we jumped at without safeguarding our future

the hard but necessary questions, and received the hard answers, not vague promises.

First, we would like to discuss the seriousness of the questions we must ask. Second, we will discuss the importance of the answers and the possible outcomes. Next we will present the possible solutions we believe can benefit all of us and answer our serious questions.

There are serious questions we as residents must ask ourselves. The effects are extensive.

Superior has one of the largest ore bodies in the Country and has been a mining community for over 100 years. We have seen the growth and decline that comes along with mining.

In 2008, Resolution submitted a pre-feasibility Plan of Operations which was just to explore and assess. We, to this date, have not seen or received answers regarding an actual Mining Plan of Operations.

We do not know for sure what mining method will be used nor the impact on the environment from that method.

answers from RCM, along with many questions and opposition from residents and new legal advisement we understood that hope alone was not enough. When we became aware of Hank Gutierrez's conviction for a conflict of interest, which caused the Mutual Benefits Agreement to be null and void, we expected RCM to act in good faith and re-address the Agreement with open negotiations. However RCM chose to move ahead with their land exchange legislation without any consideration of the Town of Superior. As a result, the current legislation does not include **any** benefit to our town.

Currently, Resolution Copper has requested our support for land exchange legislation. That legislation has been revised many times and offers no immediate benefit for the town. Previous drafts included alternative recreation areas that are not included now. Numerous attempts and conversations were made to discuss our concerns with the legislation and we were told our concerns would be addressed both before our initial support and after our withdrawal of support but have received no action from Resolution Copper Mine. These attempts were never requested in writing but

and any agreement worked out without a legal binding contract with RCM no longer counts.

The lack of knowledge of tailing sites leaves us blind as to where the next mountain of tailings will be. We know several sites have been studied, including some within or around our town limits but RCM has not shared the exact sites with us only possibilities.

Jobs and our towns economic growth is on all of our wish lists, however, no guarantees or commitments have been legally documented. No training for our community, no commitments to be a U.S. employer or a local (as in town of Superior residents) employer. The best some can hope for is a "trickle-down effect" which only applies if RCM doesn't sell. Rio Tinto also has a history of outsourcing their jobs and has the capability to run remote equipment from anywhere in the United States.

Water is a main concern and one of our necessities to live. We have not received any Hydrology reports. Grout is currently being added to stop shaft leaks, and we have no idea if this impacts our water quality or if the underground wells are

and ensure our communities growth and to ensure our future residents do not suffer negative financial, environmental and medical effects of our decisions today.

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