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Arizona State Senate

COMMITTEES:

WATER AND ENERGY, CHAIR

RURAL AFFAIRS AND ENVIRONMENT, VICE CHAIR

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

RULES

March 2, 2015

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
Drinking Water Protection Section, Mail Code WTR-3-2
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Attention: Nancy Rumrill

Dear Ms. Rumrill,

I am submitting this letter of support for Florence Copper, Inc. regarding the proposed issuance of the EPA Underground Injection Control (UIC) Class III Permit.

Florence Copper is proposing to use modern in-situ recovery practices and technologies that have been proven to fully protect the integrity and quality of groundwater resources when properly implemented. The Underground Injection Control Permit will authorize Florence Copper, Inc. to construct and operate an in-situ copper recovery Production Test Facility (PTF) on approximately two acres of land for a period of up to two years, followed by post-closure monitoring of up to five years following closure operations. This PTF will allow Florence Copper, Inc. the ability to prove that they can operate safely and without negative effects to the local drinking supplies, before seeking authorization for full scale operations.

Full scale operation of the nearly 800 tons in total mineral production, will provide the State of Arizona an economic benefit estimated to be $3.4 billion dollars and will create approximately 800 high wage jobs. The projected fiscal impact to the town of Florence is $68.4 million and $2.1 billion in economic activity for Pinal County.

As the Chairperson of the Water & Energy committee in the Arizona State Senate, I am very aware of the importance of balancing economic development projects with protecting our environment, particularly groundwater. This project successfully strikes that balance and I believe it is in the best interest of the state to see it go forward.

Thank you in advance for your consideration in the issuance of the EPA Underground Injection Control Class III Permit to Florence Copper, Inc. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Griffin

Senator Gail Griffin
Majority Whip
Legislative District 14