



**INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL
WORKERS**

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LONNIE R. STEPHENSON
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Secretary-Treasurer

June 1, 2021

VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of the over 775,000 active members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), I write to express the IBEW's strong support for the Resolution Copper project in Arizona and respectfully request that the House of Representatives refrain from further consideration of H.R. 1884, which was reported by the Committee on Natural Resources on April 28, 2021.

In order to support the American Jobs Plan and President Biden's bold initiative to build a cleaner economy that creates millions of family-supporting union jobs, the United States needs a steady and domestically sourced supply of copper. Copper is an essential component in clean energy technologies, from electric vehicles to wind turbines, to solar panels and storage batteries. Copper is arguably the most important metal needed to power our clean energy future and is growing in demand worldwide. The Resolution Copper mine near Superior, Arizona will address the global "copper crunch" by potentially supplying up to one-quarter of the nation's copper demand. This project would help ensure that the United States will "Build Back Better" by supplying much needed raw materials that will support this historic infrastructure investment and our clean energy future.

The Resolution Copper project is further important due to the investment it will make in Arizona's workforce and the local economy. The IBEW supports this project because it will create thousands of high-paying, quality jobs for IBEW members and other tradespersons in a rural community in need of greater economic investment. The Arizona Building and Construction Trades Council and Resolution Copper Mines have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that ensures that union labor will be used during the construction, operation, and shutdown phases of the mine under a Project Labor Agreement. The mine will employ nearly 5,000 IBEW and other union workers during its 10-year construction and ramp-up phases. These IBEW members and other union tradespersons have the highly specialized training and experience that prioritizes safety, efficiency, and quality craftsmanship. In addition, the Resolution Copper mine will add \$1 billion to Arizona's economy during each year of operation and generate between \$88-113 million in additional state and local tax revenue annually.

The legislation in question, H.R. 1884, to repeal section 3003 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, would reverse a bipartisan agreement that authorized the transfer





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of 2,422 acres of National Forest land for 5,376 acres of private lands held by Resolution Copper in Arizona. The repeal of the land transfer would undo the years of work and preparation made by the IBEW and Arizona tradespersons in support of the Resolution Copper project. The potential passage and enactment of H.R. 1884 would be detrimental to the thousands of tradespeople who would work on this project and the communities they support, in addition to the loss of a reliable domestic source of copper.

This is an urgent matter to the skilled IBEW members in the region and their families. I respectfully request that the House of Representatives refrain from further consideration of H.R. 1884 so that we may ensure IBEW members and other union craft professionals can get to work building America's clean energy future.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lonnie R. Stephenson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent "L" and "S".

Lonnie R. Stephenson
International President

LRS:jrl

