Dear President Obama:

Since the Grand Canyon received its first national protection under President Theodore Roosevelt, tens of millions of visitors have gazed in awe at its unspoiled beauty. But today this natural treasure is threatened. Thousands of uranium mining claims have been staked on national forest and other federal lands immediately surrounding the park, many within view of the canyon’s rim.

In 2009, your administration wisely called a two-year halt to these claims. But now you must decide whether to extend the moratorium for 20 years and, if so, how much of the land to set off limits. What hangs in the balance is not just the Grand Canyon’s splendor for future generations, but important wildlife habitat and the health of the Colorado River, which provides drinking water to millions.

Mr. President, please extend the mining claim moratorium and protect ALL 1 MILLION ACRES of public land surrounding Grand Canyon National Park.

Sincerely,

Theodore Roosevelt IV
Hon. Phil Gordon, Mayor, Phoenix, Arizona
Hon. Antonio Villaraigosa, Mayor, Los Angeles, California
Douglas Brinkley, Author and Historian
John Podesta, President, Center for American Progress
Hansjoerg Wyss, The Wyss Foundation
David H. Getches, Conservationist
Gene Karpinski, President, League of Conservation Voters
Chris Wood, President and CEO, Trout Unlimited
Jacqueline Johnson Pata, Executive Director, National Congress of American Indians
Dayton Duncan, Writer and Filmmaker
Bill Hedden, Executive Director, Grand Canyon Trust
Laura Turner Seydel, Environmental Advocate
Peter Moczaf, Co-Founder and CEO, Black Diamond Equipment
Thomas Lovejoy, Professor, George Mason University
Roger G. Kennedy, Former Director, National Park Service
Amy Redford, Director and Actor
Richard Moe, President, National Trust for Historic Preservation
Casey Sheahan, CEO, Patagonia Inc.
Jim Bara, Former Director, Bureau of Land Management
William H. Meadows, President, The Wilderness Society
Edward A. Ames, Conservationist
Hon. Gary Hart, Former U.S. Senator
Michael Kieschnick, CEO and President, CREDO Working Asses
Hon. Sara Presler, Mayor, Flagstaff, Arizona
Frank Hugelmayr, President & CEO, Outdoor Industry Association
John H. Adams, Founding Director and Trustee, Natural Resources Defense Council
Hon. Bill Richardson, Former Secretary of Energy and Governor of New Mexico
Robert Redford, Actor, Director, Environmental Advocate
Marie W. Riddell, Conservationist
Hon. Sherwood Boehlert, Former Member, U.S. House of Representatives
Edward M. Norton, Chair, Conservation Lands Foundation
Peter H. Raven, Former President, American Association for the Advancement of Science
Bernadine Jones, Chair, Havasupai Tribal Council
Frances Beinecke, President, Natural Resources Defense Council
Robert C. Simons, President, Republicans for Environmental Protection
Hon. Liz Archuleta, Member, Cochise County Board of Supervisors, Arizona
Hon. Shari Bock, Mayor, North Las Vegas, and Chair, Southern Nevada Water Authority
Ken Burns, Filmmaker
Lawrence Horton, Actor and U.N. Goodwill Ambassador for Biodiversity
Margie Alt, Executive Director, Environment America
Will Marcus, CEO, Eastern Mountain Sports
Richard Wamen, Jr., Vice-Chair and Acting Chair, Huulapal Tribal Council
David S. Wilcox, Professor of Ecology, Evolutionary Biology and Public Affairs, Princeton University
John Sterling, Executive Director, The Conservation Alliance
Dominick A. DellaSala, President, Chief Scientist, Geos Institute
Brian O’Donnell, Executive Director, Conservation Land Foundation
Tom Kiefer, President, National Parks Conservation Association
Ty Burrell, Actor
Joshua S. Reichert, Managing Director, Pew Environment Group

Don’t Undermine the Grand Canyon