## Statement to Senator Flake concerning the Proposed Grand Canyon Watershed Monument September 20, 2016

Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines Unilateral as, "done or undertaken by one person or party ... or affecting one side of a subject ... or an engagement which (obligates) only one party". The Monument appears to be a unilateral decision. In comparison, I will identify the impact of another unilateral decision affecting Tusayan, an Arizona incorporated municipality, within the proposed Monument zone.

In 2014, the Forest Service accepted, in writing, a Tusayan road easement application offering housing opportunities for residents of Tusayan, where resident owned housing is non-existent. In March 2016, after two years of the NEPA process, the application was returned with an explanation that it did not meet the "initial screening criteria". After expending $400,000 on the application process and USFS consultants, they returned the application stating that a return was neither a denial nor a rejection and the return could not be appealed. As a result, demeaning, real life situations continue to befall Tusayan residents who dedicated their lives to the Grand Canyon.

One example is recently retired former Mayor Greg Bryan. Mayor Bryan lived and worked in Tusayan more than 17 years, retiring in December 2015. Upon retirement, he was forced to move from the town he helped create, since no private owned housing exists. No private housing exists because the Forest Service refused to allow the Town to improve an existing road to Town property where affordable homes can still be built.

The Forest Service broke their own rules in this unilateral decision. This told residents of Tusayan, your best chance of owning a home doesn't matter; your right to improve less than a mile of dirt road to your own property, doesn't matter; your chance to build a community, rather than keep an employer only housing paradigm doesn't matter.

Arizona has more monuments than any other State in the Union, but this doesn't matter in unilateral decisions. 70% of Arizona is already federal land doesn't matter in unilateral decisions. Tusayan would become the only municipality entirely swallowed up in this monument doesn't matter in unilateral decisions. Private and municipal property would be unwillingly placed under an advisory committee to determine land management doesn't matter in unilateral decisions.

The truth is, we do matter!

The Town of Tusayan has proven itself a good and cooperative neighbor to the Park and Forest Service. In 2013, when the federal government shutdown, the Grand Canyon National Park closed, as did Forest Roads, and highways. While the shutdown lingered, Tusayan coordinated with the State of Arizona and local businesses to reopen the Park. Hundreds of thousands of dollars were forwarded to the federal government and the Park reopened. Upon settlement of the federal shutdown, Arizona was reimbursed their contributions to the federal government and made whole. Local businesses were reimbursed their contributions and made whole. The National Park Service was restored to their original funding level and

made whole. Tusayan has yet to be reimbursed and now has expended nearly a million dollars on federal responsibilities and Forest Service application requirements with nothing to show for it.

Soundbites supporting the monument characterize it as "saving the Grand Canyon", mostly from mining. In reality, most federal agency representatives intimate with this effort, privately acknowledge concern with federal overreach. The monument process is being used to address mining issues which have already been blocked and restricted for decades. The potential members of an "advisory committee" are already expressing how they will finally be able to "push their agendas" without interference from people who actually live within the monument boundaries. Again, a unilateral decision. Tusayan has proven our willingness to work cooperatively. Federal beaurocrats, mainly in Washington, have proven to be the opposite.

Tusayan strongly opposes the establishment of the Grand Canyon Watershed Monument, whether through Congressional decree or Executive Order. Tusayan believes this is federal overreach to appease special interest groups who do not live among, nor represent the views of the many life-long residents who cherish and manage the Grand Canyon.

Unilateral means to obligate one party. This Monument is an underhanded way to achieve special interest goals, that can't be achieved any other way. The clear definition of a unilateral decision.

Thank you.

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