Dear Representative or Senator……. ,              

Our health is endangered by a potential Mining Operation in the midst of our community  
  
We are requesting your help as your constituents. We represent our community in East Mesa, Arizona. We are fighting to prevent the start of an aggregate mine that will greatly harm our already existing neighborhood. If approved, it will monopolize us for a decade or more to come.  
(We first found out about this plan in February 2020 and have been fighting since then...our neighborhood was not given proper notification from the get go.)  
  
Twin Knolls is a Google Earth recognized geographical location. It is about 13 stories in height. This type of mine is unprecedented, towering above thousands of homes.  The owner plans to level this beautiful mountain, and is using a loophole and calling it a mining operation to achieve his ultimate goal of building homes. It initially started out that the owner would be building homes upon the mountain. But once he found it to be a financially unfeasible process, , he used a loophole to declare it a mine, instead of following the original plan to build homes upon the mountainside.  Some of our homes are as close as 80 FEET away from the base of the mountain! We did not purchase homes near a mine... the mine is trying to come to us! If allowed, this would set a horrible precedent in the state of Arizona. We do not object to homes upon the mountain. That would be acceptable. But a mining operation? We strenuously object!

The air quality, due to explosives, gravel crushing machines and continual truck traffic will be a horror for us, our health will be greatly compromised, not to mention the loss of a mountain that they intend to completely tear down by the mining. Valley Fever, respiratory illnesses, cancers, and the unknowns of Covid 19 are all major concerns for us. Some of the community are on well water. Many elderly and veterans live in our neighborhood, and the Twin Knolls are surrounded by 55+ communities. Blasting will be happening throughout this decade of mining.  
  
This particular geological site contains silica, which presents a great danger to thousands of residents' health in the surrounding area.  
Inhaling silica particles causes an increased risk of developing serious silica-related diseases, including:  
Silicosis, an incurable lung disease that can lead to disability and death  
Lung cancer  
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)  
Kidney Disease    
([osha.gov](http://osha.gov/))

The initial notification process was not followed, and by the time our community was aware of this detrimental project, we were told there was nothing that could be done. The Mining Inspectors office and the Attorney General's office have a conflict of interest and they have refused to help us...(the father works at the Attorney General's office and the daughter works for the Mining Inspector's Office.)  
There is one permit left to be approved before they start the mine...it is with Maricopa Air Quality. We have met with them and they are sympathetic, but they say they are bound by the laws in place.

 We feel that so much more needs to be done to address the horrific impact that this mine will have on our health and wellbeing for a decade or more to come. For many, this will be the last decade that they have to live on this earth, due to age and health. We have all worked our whole lives to live in peace and to have the best health we could hope for in our golden years. This is a travesty for us.

We implore you to contact the EPA on our behalf. This will affect approximately 10,000 residents, citizens, constituents, voters, Americans. We have the right to breath clean air and have clean water for our homes. We have been in contact with every Mesa official we can think of. We have had a segment air on News Channel 3. We have notified senators and representatives.

Steve Chucri and the Maricopa Board of Supervisors have been involved, but they haven't been able to stop this mine.  
As you are up for re-election, support from your office would be greatly appreciated and remembered for years to come. You would be helping thousands of people of humble means.  
  
Thank you in advance for your time.  
God bless you.  
Sincerely,