

PUBLIC LANDS ENEMY #8



Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.)

Sponsored Bills: 4; **Cosponsored Bills:** 12;

Total Possible Bills: 53

U.S. Senate (2013-Present)

U.S. House of Representatives (2001-2012),

Arizona's 6th District

Member, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Chairman, Subcommittee on Water and Power

Member, Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining

Member, Subcommittee on Energy

Jeff Flake represented Arizona's 6th House district between 2003 and 2012 before being elected to the Senate following the retirement of Jon Kyl in 2013. Between 2011 and 2016, Flake sponsored or cosponsored 16 of the 53 anti-public lands bills that were introduced to the chamber he sat in at the time, earning the title Public Lands Enemy #8.

During those three congressional sessions, Flake personally introduced four anti-public lands bills. In 2015 the senator put forth [S. 1416](#), which would prohibit reservations of federal water rights for new national monuments despite the fact that water rights can be essential to the specific scientific or historical resources for which a monument is established to protect. In 2016 Flake introduced [S. 3334](#), which would give states and counties thousands of miles of so-called Revised Statute 2477—or simply RS 2477—“highways” across national parks, monuments, wilderness areas, and other public lands. The majority of the routes that fall under the 1866 statute are not typical highways, and often include dry washes, cow paths, or seismic lines from drilling exploration, that would serve to fragment wildlife, watersheds, and recreation on public land.

One of the most flagrant anti-public lands provisions that Flake helped push through was a rider on a must-pass spending bill for the defense department that provided for a land exchange that would privatize and destroy Oak Flat, an American Indian sacred site on public land, in order to develop an enormous copper mine, Resolution Copper. The move that has been called a [\\$130 billion giveaway of public lands](#) to private corporations.

In another move against protecting public lands as well as the surrounding communities, Flake [opposed](#) the proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument, which would have made permanent a 20-year ban on new toxic uranium mines. Such mining harms the health of local American Indians and other communities and risks contamination of the springs that feed the Colorado River—a drinking source for millions downstream.

As a [former lobbyist](#) for the mining corporation Rössing Uranium, which is majority owned by the conglomerate Rio Tinto, the same entity behind the proposed mine at Oak Flat, Flake has repeatedly put mining interests above those of public lands and continues to receive generous contributions from the industry. Over the course of his political career, the mining industry has contributed at least [\\$226,402](#) to Flake's campaigns.

Anti-Public Lands Bills Sponsored or Cosponsored by Flake:

Bill Type	Sponsored	Cosponsored
Land Seizure Mohave County BLM Land Sale (S. 3333) Oak Flat Land Trade (H.R. 1904) Sale of Western Land (H.R. 1126) Oak Flat Land Trade (S. 339)	X	X X X
Private/County/State Control of Public Lands Weakens RS 2477 Rules (S. 3334)	X	
Weakening Federal Protections Border Patrol Free Reign (S. 2772) No More Uranium Withdrawal (H.R. 3155) Remove Wilderness Management (H.R. 1581) Weakens Grazing Management (S. 258) Logging Priority on Forests (S. 1966)	X	X X X X
No More Parks, Monuments, Refuges No Water for Monuments (S. 1416) No New Monuments in Arizona (H.R. 2877) No New Monuments [H.R. 758 (2011)] No New Monuments Rider (S.A. 3023) No New Monuments Rider (S.A. 3126) No New Monuments (S. 437)	X	X X X X X

Campaign Contributors ([2011-2016](#), as of December 2016, source: Center for Responsive Politics):

- Mining Industry:
 - \$193,902
- Oil & Gas Industry:
 - \$171,310
- Energy & Natural Resources Sector:
 - \$566,800
- Major Funders (in Flake's Top 100 Contributors, 2016 Election):
 - **Mining:** Freeport-McMoRan (\$59,250), National Mining Assn. (\$12,500), Rosemont Copper (\$12,250)
 - **Coal:** Peabody Energy (\$16,000), Murray Energy (\$13,602)
 - **Oil and Gas:** Sinclair Companies (\$17,700)
 - **Conglomerates:** Berkshire Hathaway (\$33,600), Honeywell International (\$15,500)

League of Conservation Voters National Environmental Scorecard:

[Lifetime](#): 9 percent