

Grand Canyon, Arizona, April, 30th. 1917.

Hon. Carl Hayden,
Washington, D. C.

My Dear Hayden:- I have returned to the Canyon again from Wickenburg, our winter home, and will now reply to your letter of the 7th. inst' regarding the Park Bill. I am exceedingly sorry you find it necessary to push this matter at the special session, and without giving yourself time to make a personal investigation of my claims. I don't care what these parties write you as to my former statements: You are a resident of our fair State and it is little less than a crime to tie up thousands more of acres of our best Potatoe and Vegetable producing land just on such statements, when it is so easy for you to come and see it for yourself.

An old stray Supai Indian by the name of Jim Vesna, who has located in one of the big rich valleys you have included in these boundaries took the premium for the best Dry Farming Potatoes at our last State Fair, and now the Indian Department has given permits to all of them who wish to come off the Reservation to this land to do the same, and help to add to our food supply, which you have good reason to know is our most important consideration just at the present moment. If you believe I am overestimating the importance of this matter just go right along, and when the time comes you will find that the indiscriminate tying up of our inheritance was a crime, and little else. You will also find that not your constituents, but a certain element in our vast aggregation of grasping corporations is behind the whole scheme. Another feature to consider is of no minor importance when you realize the scarcity of Asbestos in the United States. Go to the Geological Survey and get Mr. L.F. Nobles opinion regarding these Serpentine Deposits that lie under and west of Powells Plateau. Also ask him what he thinks of my statements in regard to your lines for the Park. He knows the region and has a vastly greater knowledge of its commercial value than all these men named in the enclosed letters put together. If you expect miners to go into this inaccessible region and take all the chances that you know always surround them, and in case they do succeed in developing something of value, they are to go in with the Government Fifty-Fift you are sadly mistaken. This I found is the present plan in my last visit to Washington, last April. There is no particular hurry about this Park as I can see, and I am not alone in seeing this time. There is also other features of the Bill that should be modified and when you and our Senator have looked the ground over as I hope you may be able to do before urging its passage I am quite positive they will have consideration such as they deserve. I read that there is quite a healthy desire in the Senate to cut out all such legislation at this time and devote the energies of our great law making system to more important matters for which it was called into action. This seems to me to be rational and imperative as we are in a precarious situation and I earnestly hope every member will realize the vast importance of giving their whole time and energy to that, and that alone.

Very sincerely yours,

W. W. Bass