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Comments: I live in Green Valley, AZ and am just a few hundred feet from a copper mine. Mining has definitely damaged our community. I had no idea what a destructive thing it is to mine ore from a mountain. They literally tear down the mountain bit by bit and use toxic chemicals that are stored in a big lake in the middle of what used to be a mountain. Those chemicals end up spread by the wind and seeping into the earth. The mines keep getting larger and larger, the mountains smaller and smaller. The mines are often not owned by US businesses and often the ores end up being sold in other countries. We can live without the ore and save our precious mountains, waters and wilderness. So I'm suggesting that it's not in our best interests to grant more permits for mines.

Water use is another big issue as our lengthy droughts are causing water shortages all over the country. We can't afford the large amounts of water that these mines require for their extraction process.