



# Southern Region, Workers United / SEIU

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## SEIU Workers United Southern Region Unanimously Passes Resolution in Support of Apache Religious Freedom and the Protection of Sacred Lands like Oak Flat

Atlanta, GA - On Sunday, June 2, 2024, 200 plus delegates of SEIU Workers United Southern Region at their convention unanimously voted in support of a resolution in support of preserving the sacred lands for the Apache people in Oak Flat in Arizona and committing to write an amicus brief in support of Apache Stronghold's Supreme Court Case. SEIU Workers United Southern Region represents over 16,000 workers across the South (Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, North and South Carolina). These unionized workers work in industries like manufacturing, distribution, industrial laundries, airports, stadiums, food service, health care, and higher education.

Chris Baumann, the Workers United Southern Region Director stated, "It has been an honor for my family and I to join the annual Apache Sacred Run to Mount Graham a number of times over the last twenty years. Our Union proudly stands in support of our Apache Brothers and Sisters in their fight to protect their sacred lands in Oak Flat from destructive mining practices that will desecrate the land and destroy the Apache sacred grounds that have been used for many, many generations. President Eisenhower did the right thing when he stepped in to protect Apache and other Native American sacred lands in the 1950s. Our current elected leaders should not overturn what he worked hard to protect."

Lora Porter, the Workers United Southern Region President, "Our Southern Union members stood up today with a unified clear voice that we stand with our Apache Brothers and Sisters in this campaign to save and preserve Oak Flat. The Apache people are facing the hardships from the exploitation of corporate America just like our members struggle with everyday. As working people, we stand together in solidarity as one."

Specifically, the resolution stated:

Be it Resolved, that SEIU -Workers United Southern Region stands in support of the Apaches and opposes turning over the sacred Apache land to any copper or mining companies and preserving the National Register of Historic Places as a Traditional Cultural Property established by President Eisenhower in 1955.

Be it further resolved, that SEIU Workers United Southern Region will write an amicus brief to the US Supreme Court opposing mining in Oak Flat and work to support Apache Stronghold in any way that we can in their campaign to preserve their sacred land.

For questions, please contact Chris Baumann at 678-593-8656.

