

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts:

Sandy Bahr, Sierra Club, 602-999-5790, sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org

Hazel Chandler, Moms Clean Air Force Arizona, 602-363-2510, hchandler@momscleanairforce.org

Doug Bland, Arizona Interfaith Power & Light, 602-312-0324, doug.bland@aziapl.org

Climate Advocates “March 4th for Climate” Speak to why Climate Can’t Wait

(Phoenix, AZ) Today, climate advocates marched from Senator Kyrsten Sinema’s office to Senator Mark Kelly’s office and delivered a [letter](#) to each senator highlighting information in a recent report by scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) detailing more than 20 extreme weather events in 2021 that resulted in lost lives and damages exceeding \$1 billion each¹. Arizona was affected by three major disasters with an estimated cost of \$250-500 million as well as 351 extreme weather events with an estimated cost of almost \$105 Million².

A key message to the senators is that climate can’t wait. The extreme weather, public health impacts, economic concerns, and disproportionate impacts on communities of color are all reasons we must have bold investments in climate, jobs, and justice, and why the U.S. Senate must act now on President Biden’s clean energy and climate plan.

“The people of Arizona are being battered by the impacts of climate-change related to extreme weather, with storms becoming more frequent, more damaging, and more deadly every year,” said **Hazel Chandler with Moms Clean Air Force**. “The potential costs of doing nothing, in lives and dollars, demand we act. These extreme weather events have inflicted unprecedented damage across the country. Last year, more than 40% of Americans were victims of extreme weather, an alarming fact that only demonstrates the urgency of action. We must take ambitious action to tackle the climate crisis, address environmental justice, and quickly expand clean energy and jobs and opportunity for all.”

The potential costs of doing nothing, in lives and dollars, demand action. Every day the Senate fails to pass the \$550 billion in investments in climate, justice, and jobs, the cost of inaction only increases.

“Not only will the President’s long-term clean energy and climate plan address climate change, reduce carbon pollution, create jobs, and achieve true environmental justice, it also protects American families from the wild price swings from carbon-based fuels”, said **Will Humble, Executive Director of the Arizona Public Health Association and former state health director**.

“The clean energy investments, long term tax credits, and improved energy efficiency programs in the President’s plan deliver more and more savings each year, reaching \$500 per household by 2030 from lower gasoline spending (-20%), lower heating bills (-8%), and decreased electricity bills (-4%). That’s a net 12% savings per household in less than 10 years,³” Humble added.

¹ NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) U.S. Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters (2022). <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/>, DOI: [10.25921/stkw-7w73](https://doi.org/10.25921/stkw-7w73)

² ibid

³Rhodium Group, October 19, 2021: [Pathways to Paris: A Policy Assessment of the 2030 US Climate Target](#)

The House of Representatives has passed this landmark legislation to implement the President's climate plan -- the most significant investments in climate change, environmental justice, and clean energy in history – and it is time for the Senate to follow.

"Climate change is a health crisis that needs to be addressed at the state and national level via strong climate provisions and an emphasis on renewable energy, decarbonization, and electrification," said **Patricia Kelly with Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments**. "Nurses are already witnessing and treating Arizonans suffering from the health effects of climate change. At our current trajectory the number of patients suffering from cardiopulmonary exacerbations from poor air quality or dehydration and stress from extreme heat will only worsen. Climate and public health can't wait and the time for action is now."

"Despite the cute animals painted on nursery walls, the story of Noah and the ark is not for children. Instead, the biblical story is a warning of what can happen when our self-centeredness, greed and indifference to the suffering of others corrupts the world," said **Rev. Doug Bland, Executive Director of Arizona Interfaith Power & Light**. Like the biblical Noah, today's NOAA (National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration) warns that the time to act on climate is now. According to the NOAA report, Arizona was savaged by 351 severe weather events in 2021. Three of those cost more than a billion dollars each. The extreme weather in Arizona resulted in 87 deaths and injuries. Climate Can't Wait!"

###

Moms Clean Air Force is a community of over one million parents united against air and climate pollution to protect our children's health.

Arizona Public Health Association is a membership organization for public health professionals and organizations. We protect and improve health in Arizona by being a voice on public health issues through advocacy and meaningful and relevant professional development and networking opportunities.

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments, ANHE, is a national network of nurses with the core mission of promoting healthy people and healthy environments by educating and leading the nursing profession, advancing research, incorporating evidence-based practice, and influencing policy.

Arizona Interfaith Power & Light is a spiritual response to climate that seeks to mobilize people of faith and conscience to care for our common home and work for climate justice.

The Sierra Club is one of the largest and most influential grassroots environmental organizations in the U.S., with more than 3.5 million members and supporters. In addition to protecting every person's right to get outdoors and access the healing power of nature, the Sierra Club works to promote clean energy, safeguard the health of our communities, protect wildlife, and preserve our remaining wild places through grassroots activism, public education, lobbying, and legal action.
