

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### ***Arizona's Climate Leaders Celebrate Historic Investments for Arizona to Address Extreme Weather, Expand Clean Energy, and Create Jobs***

### ***Leaders Thank President Biden and Arizona's Congressional Climate Supporters for Passing the Inflation Reduction Act***

**(Tempe, AZ)** – Today, Sierra Club's Grand Canyon Chapter, Arizona Interfaith Power & Light, and Moms Clean Airforce Arizona joined Director of Sustainability Initiatives for Local First Arizona **Jason Lowry**, Vote Solar's Western Regional Director **Yara Marin**, Deputy Director of Wildfire AZ **Kelly McGowan**, Special Representative of the Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters Local 1912 **Bill Ruiz**, and Lead Pastor of Dayspring United Methodist Church **Rev. Jeff Procter-Murphy** to highlight how the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act will cut costs for Arizona's families, create clean energy jobs, tackle climate change, ensure healthier communities, and reduce the threat of drought and extreme heat.

The group also congratulated Senators Mark Kelly, Kyrsten Sinema, and Representatives Raúl Grijalva, Tom O'Halleran, Ruben Gallego, Ann Kirkpatrick, Greg Stanton, and Arizona's other climate leaders for advancing this law, which provides unprecedented investments to cut climate pollution and accelerates the transition to clean energy, plus delivers transformational support for cities facing extreme weather events like deadly heat and wildfires.

"The Inflation Reduction Act is a huge step forward and will help mitigate the worst impacts of climate change while also bringing significant tangible benefits to Arizona families. We are energized by the solar components within the Inflation Reduction Act. The direct pay and REAP provisions help to reduce barriers to solar for communities and marginalized groups," said **Yara Marin, Regional Director for the Interior West at Vote Solar**. "However, we recognize that this bill does not remove every barrier to solar access. Vote Solar will continue to fight towards a 100% clean energy future that centers the health and well being of all communities."

“The Inflation Reduction Act will create opportunities for the local workforce by raising area wage standards through our specialized training,” said **Bill Ruiz, Special Representative of the Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters Local 1912.**

The Inflation Reduction Act, which was signed into law by President Biden earlier this month, provides historic investments in climate, communities, jobs, and an equitable transition to clean energy. The new law will bring an estimated [\\$4.1 billion](#) of investment in large-scale clean power generation and storage to Arizona by 2030. A 2020 report found that federal clean energy stimulus investments similar to those adopted in the Inflation Reduction Act would add more than 82,000 clean energy jobs in Arizona over five years and support the continued growth of the state’s automotive industry.

“Arizona is home to 612,000 small businesses - 99.5% of all businesses in the state,” said **Jason Lowry, Director of Sustainability Initiatives for Local First Arizona.** “Together, the Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act make a massive downpayment on our state’s small businesses and energy future. From energy efficiency, adapting commercial fleets to electric vehicles, or investing in green energy, these two bills will help businesses increase their commitments to the small-businesses sustainability movement in Arizona and play a leading role in creating a new and green economy.”

“On average, families representing the lowest 40% of the income scale, pay 25.7% of their income for energy and gas while the top 20% pay 4.8%. Too often, it is not economically viable for low-income families to afford to participate in carbon reduction technologies,” said **Kelly McGowan, Deputy Director of Wildfire AZ.** “The Inflation Reduction Act is a step forward in addressing these financial barriers by aiming to reduce the energy burden of low income and vulnerable households while also paving a path to a clean energy future.”

“As a person of faith who believes we are called to care for God’s creation, I am grateful to the President and our Congressional delegation for the passage the Inflation Reduction Act, and for the potential it offers faith communities and others who wouldn’t otherwise be able to afford to take critical steps toward addressing climate change,” said **Rev. Jeff Procter-Murphy, Lead Pastor of Dayspring United Methodist Church and member of Arizona Interfaith Power and Light.**

In addition to its promise of job growth and lower energy costs, the Inflation Reduction Act will help slash climate pollution in the U.S. by an estimated [40%](#) by

the end of the decade, which will significantly improve air quality in the region and protect Arizona residents from the detrimental effects of pollution.

A full video of the press conference can be found [HERE](#).

