

March 4, 2022

Dear Senator Mark Kelly  
Dear Senator Kyrsten Sinema  
Dear Representative Tom O'Halleran  
Dear Representative Ann Kirkpatrick  
Dear Representative Raul Grijalva  
Dear Representative Paul Gosar  
Dear Representative Andy Biggs  
Dear Representative David Schweikert  
Dear Representative Ruben Gallego  
Dear Representative Debbie Lesko  
Dear Representative Greg Stanton

The people of Arizona are being battered by the impacts of climate-change related extreme weather, with storms becoming more frequent, more damaging, and more deadly every year. A recent report issued by the scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) detailed more than 20 extreme weather events in 2021 that resulted in lost lives and damages exceeding \$1 billion each<sup>1</sup>. 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 Million<sup>2</sup>.

We can still prevent the most catastrophic impacts. 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<sup>3</sup>, 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. Every day the Senate fails to pass the \$550 billion in investments in climate, justice, and jobs, the cost of inaction only increases.

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

Climate cannot wait. We call upon Senator Sinema, Senator Kelly, and our Representatives in the House to push their colleagues in Congress to remove the political obstacles preventing

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<sup>1</sup> 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)

<sup>2</sup> *ibid*

<sup>3</sup> NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information Storm Events Database, [1/24/22](#)

passage of these critical investments. The obstruction today is holding back the health, environmental, and economic benefits these climate, justice, and jobs investments will provide to the American people.

Sincerely,

**Non-profit and Community Organizations**

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments - Katie Huffling, DNP, RN, CNM, FAAN Executive Director

[Katie@envirn.org](mailto:Katie@envirn.org)

Arizona Climate Action Coalition - Hazel Chandler - Coordinator

[hazelc@eldersclimateaction.org](mailto:hazelc@eldersclimateaction.org)

Arizonans for Community Choice - Shelly Gordon, State Director,

[sgordon@az4cc.org](mailto:sgordon@az4cc.org)

Arizona Faith Network - Rev. Katie Sexton-Wood - Executive Director

[katie.sexton@azfaithnetwork.org](mailto:katie.sexton@azfaithnetwork.org)

Arizona Health Professionals for Climate Action - Ronda Seifert RN BSN IBCLC

[rseif214@gmail.com](mailto:rseif214@gmail.com)

Arizona Interfaith Power and Light - Doug Bland - Executive Director

[doug.bland@azipl.org](mailto:doug.bland@azipl.org)

Arizona Public Health Association - Will Humble - Executive Director

[willhumble@azpha.org](mailto:willhumble@azpha.org)

Citizens Climate Lobby - Scottsdale - Co-leaders

Gabrielle Lawrence - [lawgab777@gmail.com](mailto:lawgab777@gmail.com)

Jeanne Weir - [jance.weir@gmail.com](mailto:jance.weir@gmail.com).

JoAnne Hansen - [jhansen180@cox.net](mailto:jhansen180@cox.net)

Citizens Climate Lobby - Greater Tucson - Jane Conlin - Group leaders

[janeconlin5@gmail.com](mailto:janeconlin5@gmail.com)

Citizens Climate Lobby - East Valley - Co-Leaders

Julie Coast - [Juliec818@gmail.com](mailto:Juliec818@gmail.com)

Gretchen Reinhart - [cbd.gretchen@gmail.com](mailto:cbd.gretchen@gmail.com)

Citizens Climate Lobby - Far East Valley - Sandy Whitley - Group Leader

[sandyariz@cox.net](mailto:sandyariz@cox.net)

Citizens Climate Lobby - Flagstaff - Shawn Newell - Group Leader  
[shawnlnewell@gmail.com](mailto:shawnlnewell@gmail.com)

Climate Reality - Phoenix Area - Marjorie Shavlik - Chapter leaders  
[Mshavlik39@outlook.com](mailto:Mshavlik39@outlook.com)

Defend Our Future Arizona - Alex Ross, Arizona Program Manager  
[alexr@defendourfuture.org](mailto:alexr@defendourfuture.org)

Elders Action Network - Arizona Chapter, Art Mitchell, Tucson, EAN-AZ coordinator -  
[zaperonneau@gamil.com](mailto:zaperonneau@gamil.com)

Elders Climate Action - Arizona Chapter - Hazel Chandler - State Chair  
[hazelc@eldersclimateaction.org](mailto:hazelc@eldersclimateaction.org)

Garden For Humanity - Richard Sidy  
[rvsidy@mac.com](mailto:rvsidy@mac.com)

Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Sonoran Broadband  
[emilymatyas1003@gmail.com](mailto:emilymatyas1003@gmail.com)

Keep Sedona Beautiful - Craig Swanson  
[info@KeepSedonaBeautiful.org](mailto:info@KeepSedonaBeautiful.org)

Kids Climate Action Network - Anna Mohr-Almeida, Founder  
[mmlkm02@gmail.com](mailto:mmlkm02@gmail.com)

Mi Familia Vota  
[sandyo@mifamiliavota.org](mailto:sandyo@mifamiliavota.org)

Moms Clean Air Force - Columba Sainz - Field Organizer AZ  
[csainz@momscleanairforce.org](mailto:csainz@momscleanairforce.org)  
Hazel Chandler - Field Organizer AZ  
[hchandler@momscleanairforce.org](mailto:hchandler@momscleanairforce.org)

Northern Arizona Climate Change Alliance - Rolf Von Dorp, Chairman, Board of Directors  
[slowclimate@gmail.com](mailto:slowclimate@gmail.com)

Pima County Civic Education Organization  
Rev. Deacon Leah Sandwell-Weiss, Board President  
[lsandwellweiss@gmail.com](mailto:lsandwellweiss@gmail.com)

Physicians for Social Responsibility - Arizona Chapter - Barbara Warren, MD  
Executive Director  
[bwarre01@gmail.com](mailto:bwarre01@gmail.com)

Physicians for Social Responsibility - Tucson Chapter - Jessica Porter  
[jenisep@gmail.com](mailto:jenisep@gmail.com)

Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter - Sandy Bahr - Chapter Director  
[sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org](mailto:sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org)

Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP)  
Caryn Potter - Utility Program Manager  
Ellen Zuckerman - Utility Program Co-Director  
[cpotter@swenergy.org](mailto:cpotter@swenergy.org)

The Arizona Ground Game (TAGG)  
[thegroundgametucson@gmail.com](mailto:thegroundgametucson@gmail.com)

Tierra Strategy - Autumn T. Johnson - CEO  
[autumn@tierrastrategy.com](mailto:autumn@tierrastrategy.com)

Tó Nizhóní Ání - Nicole Horseherder - Executive Director  
[nhorseherder@gmail.com](mailto:nhorseherder@gmail.com)

Tucson Audubon Society - David Robinson, Conservation Advocate  
[DRobinson@tucsonaudubon.org](mailto:DRobinson@tucsonaudubon.org)

Union of Concerned Scientists - Alica Race - Senior Campaign Coordinator  
[ARace@ucsusa.org](mailto:ARace@ucsusa.org)

Union of Concerned Scientists - Juan Decllet-Barreto - Senior Social Scientist for Climate  
Vulnerability  
[jdecllet-barreto@ucsusa.org](mailto:jdecllet-barreto@ucsusa.org)

Unitarian Universalist Justice Arizona - Janine Geisinger, Executive Director

Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation - Environmental Action Team - Linda Stenholm -  
Acting Chair  
[lin2159861@gmail.com](mailto:lin2159861@gmail.com)

Vote Solar- Yara Marin, Interior West Regional Director  
[Yaraneth@votesolar.org](mailto:Yaraneth@votesolar.org)

Yuma Audubon Society – Nancy Meister – President  
[nancymrd@msn.com](mailto:nancymrd@msn.com)

**Elected Officials**

Tempe Councilmember Lauren Kuby  
[Luaren\\_Kuby@tempe.gov](mailto:Luaren_Kuby@tempe.gov)

Tempe Councilmember Jennifer Adams  
[Jennifer\\_Adams@tempe.gov](mailto:Jennifer_Adams@tempe.gov)

Randy Miller – Salt River Project Board of Directors  
[randy.j.miller.srp@gmail.com](mailto:randy.j.miller.srp@gmail.com)

Representative Andres Cano  
Arizona House of Representatives, LD3  
[acano@azleg.gov](mailto:acano@azleg.gov)

Representative Morgan Abraham  
Arizona House of Representatives, LD10  
[MABRAHAM@azleg.gov](mailto:MABRAHAM@azleg.gov)

Representative Andrea Dalessandro  
Arizona House of Representatives, LD2  
[adalessandro@azleg.gov](mailto:adalessandro@azleg.gov)

Representative Christian Solorio  
Arizona House of Representatives, LD30  
[CSOLORIO@azleg.gov](mailto:CSOLORIO@azleg.gov)

Senator Rosanna Gabaldón  
Arizona State Senate, LD2  
[rgabaldon@azleg.gov](mailto:rgabaldon@azleg.gov)

Senator Stephanie Stahl-Hamilton  
Arizona State Senate, LD10  
[SSTAHLHAMILTON@azleg.gov](mailto:SSTAHLHAMILTON@azleg.gov)

Senator Christine Marsh  
Arizona State Senate, LD28  
[CMarsh@azleg.gov](mailto:CMarsh@azleg.gov)

**Reference:****BILLION DOLLAR EVENTS BY STATE**

State	Billion Dollar Events in 2021 <sup>1</sup>		Severe Weather Events in 2021 <sup>2</sup>		
	Number of Events	Total Cost	Count	Property Damage	Deaths + Injuries
Arizona	3	\$250M-\$500M	351	\$104,791,050	87
Georgia	6	\$500M-\$1.0B	409	\$36,885,650	30
Michigan	5	\$1.0B-\$2.0B	312	\$176,255,300	13
Nevada	3	\$100M-\$250M	62	\$3,493,000	15
New Hampshire	0	0	133	\$5,716,300	4
New Jersey	4	\$10.0B-\$20.0B	80	\$5,555,500	50
Pennsylvania	6	\$2.0B-\$5.0B	768	\$35,160,950	24
Virginia	8	\$500M-\$1.0B	1541	\$14,409,000	18
Wisconsin	4	\$250M-\$500M	231	\$7,835,700	62