



July 29, 2021

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema
The Honorable Mark Kelly
The Honorable Tom O'Halleran
The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
The Honorable Paul Gosar
The Honorable Andy Biggs
The Honorable David Schweikert

The Honorable Ruben Gallego
The Honorable Debbie Lesko
The Honorable Greg Stanton

Dear Members of Congress,

Over the past few months, Arizona Forward and a group of Arizona cities and Chambers of Commerce have engaged in conversations designed to identify infrastructure priorities for Arizona's future. It has been our pleasure to work with congressional staff in identifying opportunities to secure more investment in Arizona as it relates to transportation, manufacturing, clean energy, innovation and jobs.

As a result of these conversations, we respectfully submit our collective thoughts and encourage and support further dialogue among Arizona's delegation as we move forward in the coming months.

Invest in Arizona

Arizonans are united in the need to grow our economy and protect our environment while supporting Arizona families. Infrastructure investment in Arizona can ensure that the state is a great place to live and work for decades. The time is now to work together to build the Arizona we want for the future.

It is critical that Arizonans clearly articulate Arizona's needs and vision for the future to ensure that investment and growth happen by, and for all, Arizonans.

Transportation

Arizona needs a transportation system that drives our economy, welcomes visitors, and improves health outcomes. Statewide investments are needed for:

- Interstate upgrades (including communication upgrades)
- Improved rail and transit (including bus rapid transit, light rail, and electric buses)
- Aviation infrastructure support
- Pedestrian, bicycle corridors and complete streets
- Electric vehicle infrastructure that supports clean air

Public Lands

Arizona wants to make improvements to our parks and public lands infrastructure which are important economic drivers for Arizona's economy. There is an opportunity for better engagement and collaboration between cities, businesses, and federal partners. Potential actions include:

- Public lands for all, and stewardship by all, including the establishment of the Civilian Climate Corps and communications strategies on stewardship and fire safety
- Support for state, national forests, national park upgrades and reforestation/forest management (small-scale projects in addition to Outdoors Act funding)
- Coordination with federal partners

Clean and Resilient Energy and Water

Arizona’s economy depends on investment in water and energy infrastructure, including:

- Research, development, and innovation that grows the clean energy economy in Arizona
- Resilient energy hubs where solar and battery storage can be used for emergency management
- Energy efficiency retrofits and smart technologies (including low-income residential and multifamily)
- Further investments in water storage and emerging water technologies
- Communications campaigns for energy savings and water conservation

Jobs and Livelihoods

Investment in Arizona needs to produce immediate job growth and lasting economic impact through growing the technology, manufacturing, and design sectors. Economic growth must be supported statewide and targeted towards all Arizonans. Investments need to include:

- Job creation and innovation
- Targeted programs for underserved urban areas, rural Arizona and tribal nations
- Environmental remediation (including low-income residential housing)
- Investment in broadband (particularly in underserved urban areas, rural Arizona and tribal nations)
- Housing and shelter for emergencies (i.e. wildfires)
- Workforce development and training (in partnership with Chambers of Commerce)
- Infrastructure and programs that addresses equity and the needs of low-income Arizonans (Justice 40)

Arizona needs ACTION

Cities and Chambers of Commerce and businesses from across the state see an opportunity to invest in Arizona. The Arizona economy can thrive if critical investments are made to improve transportation, access to public lands, support jobs and livelihoods and improve and expand clean energy and water infrastructure.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Mayor Kate Gallego
City of Phoenix, Arizona

Mayor Paul Deasy
City of Flagstaff, Arizona

Mayor Regina Romero
City of Tucson, Arizona

Lori Singleton, President & CEO
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Mayor Corey D. Woods
City of Tempe, Arizona

Candace Carr Strauss, President & CEO
Sedona Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau

Karen Osburn, City Manager
City of Sedona, Arizona

Renée Louzon-Benn, Executive Director
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