

NEWS RELEASE

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**Arizonans Call on Congressmen to Support Cleaning up Arizona's Air
*Protect public health, Grand Canyon, our economy, and address climate change***

Phoenix, AZ – Today, in response to a hearing that Representatives Gosar, Salmon, Schweikert and Franks are hosting on “E.P.A. Overreach,” 13 public health, faith, civil rights, and conservation organizations, as well as several businesses called on the congressmen to support cleaning up Arizona’s air. The coalition pointed to the critical need to protect the health and welfare of Arizona residents as well as the need to protect national icons such as Grand Canyon National Park. The local economy depends on tourism revenue that is supported by places such as Grand Canyon. The groups also warned of the urgency of averting the most devastating effects of climate change, especially for our younger generations whose future hangs on the balance.

In a letter to the congressmen, the groups asked them to support the Environmental Protection Agency’s efforts under the Clean Air Act to address these issues, including at Arizona’s coal-fired plants such as Navajo Generating Station. The letter stated,

“Seeking a transition with a combination of retrofits and retirements makes sense, especially given the old age of the coal plant and the huge economic promise of moving aggressively forward on clean solar energy here in Arizona, but it must also provide a clear and enforceable path to compliance with the Clean Air Act. Transitioning to renewables also brings the benefits of reducing use of Colorado River water currently used by the coal plant and reducing carbon pollution, a critical priority as we’re already seeing the more intense and frequent heat, drought, wildfires, and storms that come with climate change. NGS is the single largest source of carbon pollution in our state.”

Rather than seeking to obstruct measures to improve air quality and pressure the Environmental Protection Agency to back off on enforcement of the Clean Air Act, the local groups urged the congressmen to “support EPA as it works to ensure that enough pollution is cut, and soon enough, at Arizona’s coal power plants to provide all Arizonans the full protections and safeguards of the Clean Air Act. Our families, all Arizona families, are counting on it.” The coalition of groups signing the letter included Arizona Interfaith Power and Light, Maricopa County NAACP, The Arizona Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility, Arizona Ecumenical Council, Earth Care Commission, Sierra Club – Grand Canyon Chapter, Environment Arizona, Arizona Asthma Coalition Board, Tucson Audubon Society, Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection, Carlson Solar Technologies, EV Solar Products, Inc, Verde Solar Power, and Cambio Energy, Inc.

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