

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 27, 2021

The Honorable Deb Haaland
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland,

With passage of the continuing resolution (CR), we write to urge the Department of Interior to release funds designated for drought relief at the Bureau of Reclamation as quickly and at the highest level possible. The recently-passed CR included \$200 million for drought relief.

As a critical federal agency managing water resources and distribution in the West, the Bureau of Reclamation provides important project funding and management to provide a sustainable water future for Arizona communities.

Arizona and the Western U.S. continue to face serious drought conditions, with Drought Contingency Plan Tier 1 cuts expected next years and Lakes Mead and Powell falling to their lowest levels in decades. This situation impacts farmers, cities, tribes, threatens conservation and watersheds, and exacerbates wildfire risks.

As state and local officials continue to work to conserve and recycle water, it is crucial that the federal government continue to provide the resources they need as soon as possible. The State of Arizona and other non-federal partners have set aside funding for additional water conservation efforts in 2022. As such, we request that you quickly release the drought relief funds for the Bureau in the CR and encourage you to match efforts in our state with federal resources.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on this critical funding, and thank you for your attention to our concerns and those of our constituents.

Sincerely,



Kyrsten Sinema
U.S. Senator



Mark Kelly
U.S. Senator