



ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE
1700 WEST WASHINGTON
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OCTOBER 26, 2021

October 26, 2021

The Honorable Senator Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator for Arizona
317 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Mark Kelly
United States Senator for Arizona
Hart Senate Office Building Suite 516
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sinema and Senator Kelly,

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of all time. After decades of study, there is overwhelming scientific consensus that anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, land use and land cover change are among the strongest drivers of the warming and changes that are causing climate crises around the world. Human activity has caused these crises; we must act to adapt and to mitigate them.

Here in Arizona, climate change is causing greater damages every year in the form of heat, drought, wildfires and the resulting floods, and diminishing water supplies. Arizona farmers are feeling the impact directly. Yuma produce, Pinal County cotton, Sonoita wines, and others have lost water and income, leaving rural Arizonans with disastrous choices: pay for ever-more expensive water solutions or leave their communities.

Record breaking heat costs lives and productivity. Utility bills rise, disproportionately harming those who can least afford it, all while temperatures continue to increase in intensity and duration. This is the reality, and it will continue to get worse until carbon emissions are radically reduced. Not only are the health and economy of Arizonans at stake, but also the cultures of Arizona's farmers and Indigenous peoples are threatened by climate change. Drought at this scale is forcing people to leave their ancestral homes.

Nearly every nation signed the Paris Accord in 2015 with the goal of limiting global temperature rise to no more than 2° C. The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has reported that greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced to zero by 2050 to achieve that goal.

The International Monetary Fund, the UN, and 3,600 American economists have all studied solutions to limit warming and have concluded that, to achieve timely success, a price on carbon in fossil fuels should be part of the policy solution. Numerous studies support this conclusion.

In the United States, legislation that prices carbon with a monthly dividend to American households and a carbon border adjustment has been introduced in both the House and the Senate. Similar proposals are said to be under discussion within committees drafting the Reconciliation bill in the Senate.

Carbon pricing relies on the marketplace to incentivize investment in clean energy technology and jobs. The transition to clean energy would protect Arizona's people, energize its economy, and secure our future. For these reasons, we urge you to ensure that any climate legislation considered by the Senate includes a price on carbon, in addition to the expansion of public transit, electrification of transit and school buses, expanding the network of EV charging stations, significant investments in energy efficiency programs, the Civilian Climate Corps, retro-fitting school buildings and public housing to be more energy efficient, and significant programs to reduce emissions from the electricity-generation sector.

We also ask that you take care that any carbon pricing legislation be fair and comprehensive. First, we ask you to make sure that the price of carbon is not unduly placed on lower income families who spend a much higher percentage of their income on non-discretionary needs. Second, we ask that you protect against carbon "leakage" by ensuring that emitters cannot avoid the price on carbon by relocating their emissions outside the United States. A price on carbon that is fair and comprehensive will help our country transition to the clean energy future it deserves.

Sincerely,



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