

**Congress of the United States**

**Washington, DC 20515**

January 16, 2013

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
PHOENIX, AZ

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Joe Incardine  
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RE: Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Sun Valley to Morgan 500/230kV Transmission Line Project and Draft Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Plan Amendment [Reference: 1610 (PO10/9100)]

Dear State Director Suazo, Mr. Hawes, Mr. Incardine,

As Arizona Congressional Representatives, we are writing in support of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) selection of the Proposed Action as the Agency Preferred Alternative in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Draft Resource Management Plan Amendment (DRMPA) for the APS Sun Valley to Morgan 500/230kV Transmission Line Project (Project). It is our desire that this letter be accepted as a public comment concerning the aforementioned DEIS and DRMPA for inclusion in the record.

BLM's selection of the Proposed Action as the Agency Preferred Alternative and amendment to the Resource Management Plan is consistent with and is supported by priorities established by the Office of the President, U.S. Congress, the Departments of Interior and Energy, as well as other Federal Agencies. The Proposed Action establishes multi-use within the State Route 74 Designated Corridor; reduces potential transmission congestion and increases important redundancy and reliability of the electric grid around the Phoenix metropolitan area; expands opportunities for renewable energy use; and provides critical support and protection in the event of a natural disaster or threat to our national defense.

The Agency Preferred Alternative, the Proposed Action, is consistent with the Certificate of Environmental Compatibility approved by the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) on March 17, 2009. As you are aware, by statute, the ACC has jurisdiction for transmission planning through its Biennial Transmission Assessment and the siting of transmission lines

designed for 115kV or higher in the State of Arizona. See A.R.S. §40-360, *et seq.* In addition, the ACC decision regarding the Project was founded on a thorough process including environmental review, public participation, and hearings to consider the "total environment of the area" as required by A.R.S. §40-360.06.

We further stress that only the Agency Preferred Alternative (Proposed Action) is consistent with the local governmental plans including those of the City of Peoria, Arizona. It is the expectation of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) that the land use plans of the BLM provide that "Land use plans of the Secretary under this section shall be consistent with State and local plans to the maximum extent he finds consistent with Federal law and the purposes of this Act" FLPMA, P.L. 94-579, §202(c) (9).

We believe that the ultimate approval of the Project through selection of the Proposed Action as the Agency Preferred Alternative is an essential component in ensuring that the electric transmission needs of the State of Arizona are met. The ACC noted in its letter to the BLM dated May 25, 2011 that, "Timely development of the Sun Valley to Morgan project is critical for ensuring transmission reliability, enabling access to renewable generation, and creating appropriate grid redundancies in the system."

We appreciate the hard work and commitment of the BLM staff from the Washington DC Office, Arizona State Office, and the Hassayampa Field Office in expediting the review of the Project. The importance of expediting the approval of electric transmission rights-of-way through public lands, designating corridors, and supporting infrastructure co-location are an important aspect in providing reliability and stability of the electric grid in the State of Arizona. We believe through cooperation and mutual understanding that the policy priorities of our country can be met.

Thank you for your consideration of these facts and points. As Congressional Representatives for the State of Arizona we hope you understand the importance of these issues and this Project.

Most sincerely,



Trent Franks  
United States Congress



Ed Pastor  
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Paul Gosar  
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Ann Kirkpatrick  
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David Schweikert  
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