

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 15, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, and Leader McCarthy:

Thank you for your ongoing leadership in the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak and the ongoing economic downturn. With as many as 400,000 Arizonans out of work, we ask that future relief legislation considered by Congress support growth-oriented industries that have the potential to create good manufacturing, engineering, construction, and business jobs for the long term. In Arizona, the solar energy industry has the potential to create and sustain thousands of highly paid jobs for the duration of the pandemic and after. Therefore, we request that any future coronavirus relief legislation considered by Congress support Arizona's solar energy industry.

Arizona ranks third in the nation for total amount of solar capacity installed, and the solar industry supports more than 7,700 jobs in Arizona. Our state is home to 473 solar companies, which have invested more than \$12.4 billion in Arizona's economy. Prior to the coronavirus outbreak, 2020 was projected to be yet another year of record-breaking growth for solar jobs in Arizona, and Arizona's leaders have recognized on a bipartisan basis the solar industry's potential for creating thousands more jobs and billions more in investments for our state's economy.

Unfortunately, the coronavirus outbreak has threatened this growth and, without additional action, many high-growth solar companies may be unable to survive the current economic downturn. The Solar Energy Industries Association estimates that there will be a 37 percent decrease nationally in solar installations this year, as compared with the previous year. And conservative estimates indicate that more than 850,000 clean energy jobs may be lost nationally this year.

We therefore request that, as Congress considers additional market-based, low-cost, growth-focused policy interventions to help stimulate the economy, you will consider supporting Arizona's solar energy industry. A number of clean energy tax incentives for individuals and

businesses are phasing down or expiring, including the Investment Tax Credit for solar and other clean energy technologies, and extending these tax incentives for the duration of the current economic downturn would help save thousands of solar jobs in our state. Additionally, as Congress considers legislation to reauthorize surface transportation and energy programs, we request that further investments be made to support the solar industry in Arizona.

Additionally, there are a number of bipartisan, bicameral proposals that would help jumpstart growth in Arizona's solar industry and could be included in additional coronavirus relief legislation or upcoming reauthorizations of surface transportation or energy programs. The Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act (H.R. 3794 / S. 2666) would develop a streamlined planning, siting, and permitting process for renewable energy development on public lands. The Solar Energy Research and Development Act (H.R. 3597 / S. 2668) would reauthorize solar research and development programs within the Department of Energy, and focus federal research funding on next-generation solar technologies. These bipartisan proposals represent commonsense reforms to ensure solar energy development in Arizona and nationwide.

In the midst of an unprecedented economic downturn, Congress must do more to support industries that support good-paying jobs that have growth potential for years to come. We believe that Arizona's solar industry is a key driver of jobs of the future, and we respectfully request that you consider additional ways to support solar industry jobs in upcoming relief legislation.

Thank you for your consideration, and your ongoing leadership.

Sincerely,



Kyrsten Sinema  
U.S. Senator



Martha McSally  
U.S. Senator



Tom O'Halleran  
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick  
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress



David Schweikert  
Member of Congress



Raul Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress