

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 11, 2026

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Secretary Burgum:

At the outset, we would like to thank you for your agency's America First Investment Policy. Your leadership and the Trump Administration's efforts as a whole to incentivize domestic manufacturing and strengthen U.S. supply chains are clearly yielding results. Arizona is a prime example of this success, with a growing microchip sector, a major aerospace and defense presence, and significant critical mineral production.

It is in that context that we write with serious concern regarding the Bureau of Reclamation's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Post-2026 Colorado River operations, released on January 16, 2026. As currently drafted, the DEIS would impose drastic reductions on Arizona's water supply, directly undermining the economic and strategic gains advanced by this Administration. These cuts would jeopardize high-value activities and the reliability of water supplies for Arizona communities.

The DEIS would disproportionately reduce Arizona's Colorado River allocation while leaving Upper Basin States largely unaffected. In particular, the proposed alternatives would all but sever nearly six million Arizonans served by the Central Arizona Project from Colorado River supplies they have relied upon for more than four decades, while also threatening several on-river communities. Notably, the DEIS itself acknowledges the severity of these consequences, stating that "widespread impacts on social and economic conditions may also be possible," including scenarios in which municipalities may need to pursue alternative or even hauled water sources to maintain basic services.

While a negotiated solution among the Basin States and Reclamation remains our preferred path forward, the DEIS contains significant legal and policy deficiencies that must be addressed. Most critically, it fails to meaningfully account for the Upper Basin States' delivery obligations under the Colorado River Compact, or Reclamation's authority and responsibility to manage federally owned Upper Basin reservoirs to ensure compliance with the Law of the River. Absent correction, these flaws are likely to invite litigation rather than consensus.

Arizona remains committed to working collaboratively with the other Basin States and Reclamation to reach a durable, balanced agreement. The Colorado River system functions best when risks, responsibilities, and necessary reductions are shared equitably to protect both the river and the infrastructure upon which the entire Basin depends.


Given the substantial economic, industrial, and national security interests at stake, we respectfully request that the DEIS be withdrawn and revised to address these concerns and to ensure post-2026 operations align with the Trump Administration's America First priorities. We would also welcome the opportunity to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss these issues directly.

Thank you for your leadership and for your continued efforts to put our country on the right track. We look forward to working with you to secure a reliable water future that sustains Arizona's communities and the industries vital to our nation's strength.

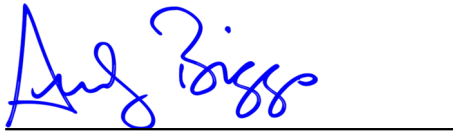
Sincerely,




Juan Ciscomani
Member of Congress



David Schweikert
Member of Congress



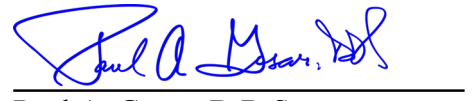
Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



Abraham J. Hamadeh
Member of Congress



Elijah Crane
Member of Congress



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