**To:** Interested Parties

**From:**

**Date:**

**Re:** Arizonans Demand a Plan for Addressing Climate Change

From drought and extreme heat to flooding, hurricanes, and sea level rise, communities across the country are feeling the impacts of climate change as a result of increased pollution. A growing number of Americans – including a majority of Republicans – are concerned with how climate change is impacting their health and communities and want the government to take action.

***The following information is provided to demonstrate how Arizonans are impacted by climate change and how their elected leaders are approaching the crisis. We encourage you to report on how Arizonans want Senator Sinema to address the impact climate change is having in Arizona and their opposition to coal lobbyist Andrew Wheeler to lead the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the agency charged with protecting public health and our environment.***

Support for climate action is growing across all age groups, all religions, and all political persuasions. A [March poll](http://climatecommunication.yale.edu/publications/politics-global-warming-march-2018/2/) from climate change researchers at Yale and George Mason Universities found 87 percent of Democrats and **56 percent of Republicans** support bold climate action. Similarly, a [November AP-University of Chicago poll](http://www.apnorc.org/projects/Documents/EPIC%20fact%20sheet_v4_DTP.pdf?wpisrc=nl_energy202&wpmm=1) found 86 percent of Democrats, 70 percent of independents and **52 percent of Republicans** believe that climate change is happening now; and of those who believe climate change is happening, *83 percent say the federal government should take steps to address climate change*. What’s more, a [December 2018 Fox News Poll](https://www.foxnews.com/politics/fox-news-poll-president-trump-ends-year-two-with-46-percent-job-approval) found that 64% of voters are concerned about climate change – up 7 points from January 2018 – **a boost mostly driven by a 13-point jump among Republicans.**

The threat of climate change is real for individuals and families across Arizona. Arizona saw more heat related deaths in 2017 [than any year prior](https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona-health/2018/05/01/arizona-saw-more-heat-related-deaths-2017-than-any-year-prior/570906002/), and today, [200,000 people in Arizona](http://reportcard.statesatrisk.org/report-card/arizona/extreme_heat_grade) under the age of five and over the age of 65 and living in poverty are especially vulnerable to extreme heat. Without action, this situation will become worse. Arizona is expected to see heat wave days [more than triple by 2050](http://reportcard.statesatrisk.org/report-card/arizona/extreme_heat_grade), and by 2060, Arizonans are projected to see average temperature increases of up to nearly 4 degrees, according to a report from the [Arizona Department of Health Services and Arizona State University](https://www.azdhs.gov/documents/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/extreme-weather/pubs/arizona-extreme-weather-climate-and-health-profile-report-2015-executive-summary.pdf).

Arizonans know that we need to act on climate and are already implementing local clean energy solutions to reduce climate-changing carbon pollution and boost their economies. **[INSERT LOCAL SOLUTIONS DATA FOR ARIZONA]**

Senator Sinema needs to be taking her cues from state and local leaders and joining them in moving forward to reduce carbon pollution that’s contributing to climate change. In order to do that, Sinema has to reject the nomination of former coal lobbyist Andrew Wheeler to lead the EPA, since he’s spent his tenure as acting administrator attempting to dismantle lifesaving climate and health protections. Wheeler and the other industry insiders nominated by President Trump are jeopardizing Arizona’s transition to a clean energy economy. Senator Sinema knows that tackling the global climate crisis will create the 21st century jobs in communities across our country that fuel our economy. We already have created [3.2 million jobs nationally](https://www.e2.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Clean-Jobs-America-2018.pdf) as part of our transition to a clean energy economy and we can continue to build on that success, lifting up urban, suburban and rural communities.

It’s the responsibility of elected officials to meet the demands of their constituents, not bend to the will of the polluter allies in the Trump administration. We have the ability to solve the climate crisis if Senator Sinema joins the momentum created by state and local leaders in Arizona who are stepping up to meet the challenge of addressing climate change.

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