

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 22, 2014

Dear Colleague:

We are writing to ask your support to call up and pass H.R. 862 by unanimous consent **today, Thursday, May 22, 2014.**

Wildfire crews are currently battling the "Slide Fire" located south of Flagstaff, Arizona. This fire is over 4,500 acres and growing exponentially. Approximately 500 personnel are now on scene battling the blaze, including 15 hotshot crews, 30 engines, and three air tankers. **The small unincorporated community known as "Mountainaie" is potentially in the path of the Slide Fire. As of last night, the community was approximately 5 miles away from the fire line.** The neighboring community to the southwest, Kachina Village, is already under a pre-evacuation notice.

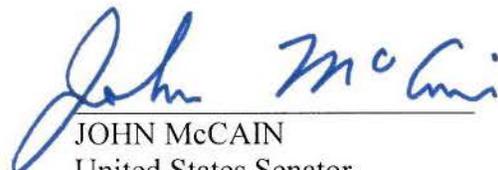
Unfortunately, a land survey error from 1960 accidentally placed 19 parcels (totaling 2.67 acres) of the Mountainaie community on national forest lands. **If these Mountainaie homes burn, there is a concern that there will be long-term repercussions for the homeowners, including not being able to rebuild because they technically do not own the land.**

A bill in the Senate, H.R. 862, would avoid an unfortunate scenario by enabling the homeowners to expeditiously purchase the small fragmented Forest Service lands from the federal government. This remedy is supported by the Forest Service. The bipartisan bill was passed by the House of Representatives on June 17, 2013 on a vote of 395-1, and was favorably reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on April 10, 2014 by voice vote (S. Rpt. 113-149).

We appreciate your timely consideration of this urgent request.

Sincerely,


JEFF FLAKE
United States Senator


JOHN McCAIN
United States Senator