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August 3, 2016

Honorable Senator John McCain
2201 East Camelback Road, Suite 115
Phoenix, AZ 85016

Honorable Senator John McCain

As Mayor of the City of Yuma, I strongly support the position expressed by Arizona Game and Fish Commission Chairman Kurt Davis and the Arizona Game and Fish Department that opposes the proposed Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument.

As you know, Arizona already has more National Monuments than any other state. Many of our residents are outdoor enthusiasts and travel to this area to hunt, fish, hike, boat, and bird watch among other outdoor activities. History of land designations tells us that lands will experience increased restrictions or full closures over time. Local economies throughout Arizona will be negatively impacted while Arizona Game and Fish Department's ability to support wildlife conservation will be severely curtailed due to loss of revenue.

The federal government cannot afford to maintain the existing national parks and monuments now. The additional 1.7 million acres for this national monument will only add to the inability to meet required maintenance needs of the full national parks system. Funding would better be directed to supporting the existing national park system or other national priorities like transportation infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Douglas J. Nicholls, PE, RLS
Mayor
City of Yuma

cc: ✓ Senator Jeff Flake
Representative Paul Gosar
Representative Trent Franks
Director Christy Goldfuss, Environmental Quality
Secretary Thomas Vilsack, Department of Agriculture