

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 5, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President  
U.S. Department of Interior  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington DC, 20500-0004

Dear Mr. President,

We write to ask for clarification on the status of the administration's actions relating to a possible new national monument in Arizona.

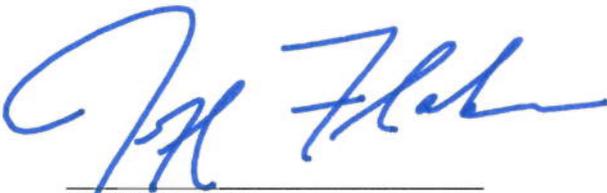
Our offices have received reports from within the administration that there have been efforts underway this year in the Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of Interior (DOI), and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to prepare a national monument designation similar to the one proposed in H.R. 3882, The Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act. We sent you a letter on October 3, 2016 urging you to listen to the wide range of Arizona stakeholders who have expressed concern over the potential impacts of a new monument.

Since that time, we have heard from a number of credible sources that both USDA and DOI have significant unresolved issues that prevent their recommending the designation of a new national monument. We continue to insist that no action be taken related to a monument designation during this administration without robust consultation with all the affected stakeholders.

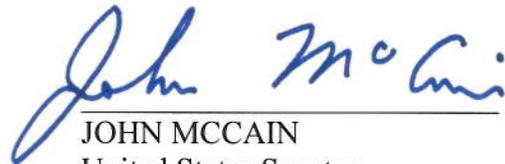
We are encouraged by recent reports that the administration appears not to be moving toward a monument designation at this time. We respectfully request that CEQ provide us with a briefing detailing the administration's position, the actions CEQ has taken, and the current status of consultations between USDA, DOI and CEQ, regarding a potential new national monument designation in Arizona.

As always, we ask that this matter be handled in strict accordance with all applicable agency rules, regulations, and ethical guidelines.

Sincerely,



JEFF FLAKE  
United States Senator



JOHN MCCAIN  
United States Senator