



April 22, 2016

Ms. Linda Miller
Refuge Manager - Havasu NWR
317 Mesquite Avenue
Needles, California 92363

Re: Havasu National Wildlife Refuge

Dear Ms. Miller:

The Lake Havasu Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors voted unanimously Tuesday of this week in opposition of the proposed regulations that would close portions of Lake Havasu to motorized watercraft within the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge. Our chamber, with nearly 700 members, employs 20,000+ Lake Havasu City area residents, likely all in an industry that benefits from tourism.

No doubt, and quoting Mayor Mark Nexsen in his letter of April 20 to your office, "the lands and resources owned by the American people and managed as the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge are important and the activities supported by this Refuge are integral to the regional economy." However, it appears to our Chamber that the federal government is not thinking about the consequences this action will have on the local economies of the communities between Lake Havasu and the Davis Dam nor the effect on the human capital.

We also echo the Mayor's request for a 60-day extension for public comments and for your office to hold a public meeting in Lake Havasu City; there are plenty of meeting spaces large enough to accommodate the sizable audience that will attend to provide information you'll want and need to know about the damage this proposal will create for the hard working residents of our communities.

Our businesses are still struggling as we move slowly out of the Great Recession. I am sure you are aware that our region of the country has been one of the slowest to recover. The federal government's proposed action in the Refuge will be like a nail in the coffin for Lake Havasu City and our neighboring river communities with any efforts we are currently working on or have planned to create a sharing, strong, local economy.

We are not advocating that protection of native wildlife and fish should be ignored, but we are also not satisfied with the information provided that supports your desire to take this action. There are also many questions from community stakeholders that require answers.

LAKE HAVASU AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

314 London Bridge Road
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403

TEL: 928-855-4115

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We encourage your office to take our concerns into consideration and allow the additional public comment time and a meeting in Lake Havasu City. The Chamber of Commerce stands ready to assist your office in making those meeting arrangements. We would like to work in partnership with you in finding a solution and being involved in the process.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or if I can provide further information. My office numbers is 928-855-4115, ext. 125, or send email to lisak@havasuchamber.com.

Respectfully,

Tim Miller
Chairman of the Board

Lisa J. Krueger, IOM, ACE
President/CEO

cc: Senator John McCain
Senator Jeff Flake
Congressman Paul Gosar
Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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