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Update from Arizona: Bureaucrats Raising Energy Prices

Archived June 13

Dear Friend,

Right now the federal government is harming our state's water and power security through a rising amount of red tape, or [bureaucratic regulation](#).



There was a great turnout for the field hearing

That is why on Monday, June 4th I hosted a field hearing in Phoenix, Arizona with the House Subcommittee on Water and Power Chairman Tom McClintock (R-CA) and Congressman David Schweikert (R-AZ) to discuss how our state's water security and potential job growth are at risk due to federal regulations.

Remarks from Congressman Gosar's Field Hearing Opening Statement



Rep. Gosar, Chairman McClintock, and Rep. Schweikert at the Arizona State Capitol.

Arizona, like many other states across the west, is facing the brunt of the Obama Administration's misguided policies. Nowhere is this more true than in the natural resources realm.

Protecting Arizona's Forests

Last year, nearly one million acres of Arizona's forests burned in one of the worst fire seasons in our state's history.

- Since late April, over 45,000 acres of forest in Arizona have been destroyed due to wildfires.
- Arizonans are tired of being victims of avoidable wildfire conditions.
- I have introduced legislation, the Catastrophic Wildfire Prevent Act, which will streamline the review process and allow the US Forest Service to utilize the emergency provisions of existing regulations so that our forests can be maintained and so we are able to provide economic opportunities for rural communities.



The recent Sunflower Fire over the Matatzal Mountains

Supporting the Navajo Generation Station

- The Navajo Generation Station (NGS) provides over 90% of the power for the Central Arizona Project (CAP), which is the largest supplier of renewable water in the state, and supports over 80% of Arizona's population.
- NGS ensures 45% of Phoenix's water, the 5th largest city in the country, and 80% of the City of Tucson, the 35th largest city in the country, receives water from the Colorado River.
- Provides multiple Arizona Native American Tribes their water.
- NGS has over 500 employees, more than 80% of whom are Navajo. NGS and the Kayenta Mine, which supplies the plant with coal, employ almost 1,000 people, with a combined annual operating budget of approximately \$500 million.
- The plant and the mine provide significant economic benefit to the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe through employment, scholarships, lease payments, and coal royalties.
- Arizona State University's Seidman Institute recently conducted a study

that found that NGS and the mine will contribute over \$20 billion to Arizona's economy between 2011 and 2044, and contribute over 3,000 jobs each year throughout the state.



To see video of my full opening statement click above.

What would happen if the EPA imposes its proposed visibility mandate on the Navajo Generating Station?

- Irreparable harm to Arizona's water security, power supply, and economy.
- Increase water rates for agricultural users and American Indian tribes by up to 16%.
- Increase water rates 7% for municipal and industrial users.
- Force Arizona farmers to return to pumping groundwater, jeopardizing Arizona stable water supplies.
- Undermine existing Native American Water Settlements.
- The plant could shut down resulting in a loss of over \$3.5 billion between 2012 and 2044 to the economies of the Central Arizona Tribes that depend on the affordable water received through the CAP.

Power Marketing Administrators and Higher Energy Costs



Secretary of Energy Steven Chu has outlined directives that could raise energy costs

We thoroughly discussed the [Memorandum for Power Marketing Administrators](#) (PMA's) issued by Secretary of Energy Steven Chu on March 16, 2012, that outlines four specific directives that could lead to higher energy costs.

- The core mission of the Western Power Administration and the other three PMAs is to provide low-cost, renewable hydropower to millions of families and small businesses.
- The memo raises serious concerns about the manner and scope of how it would dramatically change the PMAs' mission.
- The electric bills of families and small businesses that depend on power from PMAs should not be increased because the Energy Secretary would like to toy and experiment with various energy schemes and mandates.
- I have heard from numerous public power utilities, rural electric cooperatives, and local officials in our states who are troubled by the potential cost impacts of these directives and by a perceived expansion of the role of the PMAs beyond their current statutory authority.
- I have written a letter signed by over 140 US Senators

and

Representatives from both political parties asking the Department of Energy to put the brakes on this far reaching initiative.

To read my opening statement click [here](#).

Witness Testimonies: Insight into the Restricting Red-Tape

Two sets of witnesses also testified on the mishandling of Arizona's forests and the over-regulation of the Environmental Protection Agency especially pertaining to the Navajo Generation Station. I invite you to view their statements [here](#).

More Information from Witnesses

[Stephen Etsitty Navajo Nation EPA Executive Director](#)

[Andrew Groseta, President Arizona Cattlemen's Association](#)

[Tom Jones, Chief Executive Officer of the Grand Canyon State Electric Cooperative Association, Inc.](#)

[Amanda Reeve, State Representative](#)

[Gregory Mendoza, Governor Gila River Indian Community](#)

[John Sullivan, Assoc General Manager & Chief Resources Exec Salt River Project](#)

[Gail Griffin, State Senator](#)

This Coming Monday: Job Fair

**Good stuff.
Good work.
Goodwill.**



Job Fair June 11th -

I will be joined by a leading Arizona nonprofit organization,

Goodwill of Central Arizona, for a job fair on Monday, June 11th from 12:00pm-4:00pm at the Prescott Resort and Conference Center. Be sure to get there early, bring your resumes, dress professionally and be prepared to talk to hiring managers from numerous companies.



You can also see my [video announcement](#) of the job fair

As always, you can follow everything I am working on in Arizona and Washington, D.C. through my website (<http://gosar.house.gov>) on Twitter [@repgosar](#), or through [Facebook](#) at Representative Paul Gosar.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress

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Washington, DC Office
504 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-2315
Fax: (202) 226-9739

Casa Grande Office
211 North Florence St., Suite 3
Casa Grande, AZ 85122
Phone: (520) 836-5289
Fax: (520) 836-9831

Prescott Office
240 South Montezuma St. #101
Prescott, AZ 86303
Phone: (928) 445-1683
Fax: (928) 445-3414

Show Low Office
550 N. 9th Place
Show Low, AZ 85901
Phone: (928) 537-2251