

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 11, 2021

Bureau of Land Management
Kingman Field Office
2755 Mission Blvd
Kingman, AZ 86401

RE: Support for Exploration Project by Big Sandy Inc. for lithium
near Wikieup, Mohave County, AZ

To Whom it May Concern,

We are writing in support of the exploration plan as developed by Big Sandy Inc. to assess the potential lithium resources near Wikieup in Mohave County, Arizona. We encourage BLM to continue to move forward with this project and lead America towards a new energy secure national strategy.

On May 5th, the International Energy Agency (IEA) released a new report¹ on the importance of promoting global mineral development and processing to meet our future demands for renewable energy and battery manufacturing. The IEA report highlights how current lithium production and processing is controlled by just a handful of nations and corporations. It is critically important that we advance our domestic mineral security, particularly of resources that are critical to growing our domestic manufacturing. Lithium is critical to the growth of domestic battery manufacturing and we need to quickly advance our domestic supply to ensure that domestic manufacturing can proceed.

The Big Sandy exploration project is how our nation learns of the resources we have, this project, and the limited environmental impacts that will result, will help us understand what resources may be available in this region to help craft informed decisions on how we should ensure our national domestic energy and mineral security. In addition, this project could be a major step in securing a battery supply chain in the US and for economic development and jobs in Arizona. This next step in this critical drilling/sampling program will better define the lithium resources available and create an environmentally-compliant facility to produce battery feed stocks. Big Sandy, Inc. did a similar First and Second Stage drilling program in 2019. Like that successful effort, this program is designed to have minimal impact on stakeholders and the environment.

¹ https://www.iea.org/reports/the-role-of-critical-minerals-in-clean-energy-transitions/executive-summary?utm_content=bufferd5092&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

We thank you for your work on this and encourage the Bureau to proceed with this important project. Please adhere to all rules, regulations and policies when considering this request.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Paul A. Gosar in blue ink, featuring a large, stylized initial 'P' and 'G'.

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

Handwritten signature of Debbie Lesko in blue ink, written in a cursive style.

Debbie Lesko
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of David Schweikert in blue ink, written in a cursive style.

David Schweikert
Member of Congress