



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

July 13, 2009

The Honorable Jan Brewer
State of Arizona
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Governor Brewer:

In February, Congress passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to help get Americans back to work. At the Department of the Interior, we are overseeing \$3 billion in investments in projects that will develop clean energy, maintain our Nation's treasured landscapes, improve the quality of life for Indian communities, employ youth, and improve the condition of facilities and roads throughout the Nation. Presently, at least \$320 million of those funds will be directed toward projects in Arizona.

Some key Republican leaders in Congress have publicly questioned whether the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is working and suggested cancelling all projects that are not currently in progress. I believe they are wrong. The stimulus funds provided through the Recovery Act are a very effective way to create job opportunities throughout the Country. However, if you prefer to forfeit the money we are making available to Arizona, please let me know.

Some of the projects that could be suspended include:

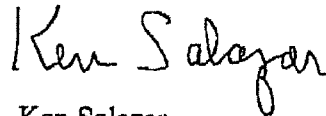
- \$13.8 million for Yuma area projects to repair water related infrastructure and dredging to improve water deliveries in the Lower Basin States and Mexico
- \$26.8 million for the Gila River Indian Community for Tribe's water supply as part of a water rights settlement
- \$5.3 million for Yuma area facilities, including the Yuma Desalting Plant and area office, for seismic and operational improvements
- \$60.0 million for construction and major improvements to Bureau of Indian Education schools and support facilities including the Kaibeto Boarding School
- \$2.1 million to improve the health and safety of National Park Service facilities, including facilities in Saguaro National Park and Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument
- \$2.3 million for rehabilitation and energy retrofits of fisheries facilities including \$1.2 million for Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery.

These projects in Arizona and similar ones across the Country are creating good-paying jobs and building America's infrastructure for the future. These are good investments that

were selected through a merit-based process, and we need to allow the time that Congress intended to implement these projects – until September 2010. I hope you will agree with me that this is the right approach to repairing our Nations' economy.

I look forward your reply, and I am hopeful that we can continue to work with you to get the economy back on track. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Salazar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ken Salazar