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United States Senate

December 11, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

In light of the recent decision to temporarily close the Lukeville Port of Entry and the record number of migrants attempting to cross into Arizona, we write in support of Governor Hobbs' request to reassign National Guard members to facilitate the reopening of the port, and to have the federal government reimburse the state for the costs it incurs shouldering the burden of the border crisis.

For far too long, Arizona communities have paid the price for Washington's failures on the border. They are unfairly forced to use their own very limited resources to manage and serve record numbers of migrants, which are overwhelming our broken immigration system. To help manage this crisis, US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) recently indefinitely closed the Lukeville Port of Entry and diverted all Port Officers to process and transport migrants arriving at the border. This decision is an unacceptable outcome that further destabilizes our border, risks the safety of our communities, and damages our economy. Our ports of entry are key drivers of economic growth and security in our state, and it is critical that they be properly staffed and resourced.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 502 of 32 U.S.C., we request that you reassign the 243 National Guard members currently on federal active duty orders on the southern border to facilitate the reopening of the Lukeville Port of Entry immediately. Additionally, to the extent necessary, we request that additional National Guard members currently on federal active duty orders be reassigned to Arizona to assist CBP in reopening the Lukeville Port.

Finally, due to the federal government's failure to both secure the border and fairly and humanely treat arriving migrants, Arizona has spent \$512,529,333 in taxpayer dollars addressing the security and humanitarian disaster caused by Washington's inaction. Pursuant to Section 26-105(E) of the Arizona Revised Statutes, we support Governor Hobbs' request that the federal government reimburse our state for these expenses.

Thank you for your attention to these urgent matters of national and economic security. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

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Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Kelly".

Mark Kelly
United States Senator