

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0309

September 3, 2025

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

The Honorable Jessica Bowron
Director
U.S. National Parks Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Burgum and Director Bowron,

Arizona has endured a devastating wildfire season this year. Dozens of major blazes have scorched hundreds of thousands of acres of treasured landscapes. The Dragon Bravo Fire on the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park alone has burned nearly 150,000 acres, destroyed more than 75 structures—including the iconic Grand Canyon Lodge—and still continues to challenge our wildland firefighters.

The toll on northern Arizona communities has been severe. Arizona communities such as Jacob Lake, Fredonia, Marble Canyon, Page, and the Navajo Nation all depend on recreation-driven tourism tied to Grand Canyon National Park and surrounding public lands. These destinations typically welcome 5 million visitors each year, generating roughly \$1 billion in economic activity and supporting more than 11,000 jobs. This year, many of these communities lost their peak season, and with the North Rim closed for the rest of 2025, their recovery hangs in the balance.

To help these communities stabilize and rebuild, it is essential that we restore safe access to the park as quickly as possible. While I recognize that many facilities must remain closed to protect visitors, I urge the National Park Service to reopen key viewpoints and trails wherever it is safe to do so. The Cape Royal and Imperial Point overlooks are vital to drawing visitors back, as are the Bright Angel, North Kaibab, and South Kaibab trails—cornerstones of the Grand Canyon experience.

I respectfully request that you dedicate the staff and resources necessary to accelerate the safe reopening of Grand Canyon National Park's North Rim. My office stands ready to support your agency in restoring access to these national treasures as quickly as possible in order to expedite the recovery of the communities whose livelihoods depend on them.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this urgent matter. I look forward to working with you on this critical effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Kelly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and the last name "Kelly" clearly distinguishable.

Mark Kelly
United States Senator