

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Daniel Ashe  
Director  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1849 C Street, NW Room 3331  
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Benjamin Tuggle  
Regional Director  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
500 Gold Avenue SW  
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Ms. Linda Miller  
Refuge Manager  
Havasu National Wildlife Refuge  
317 Mesquite Avenue  
Needles, California 92363

Dear Director Dan Ashe, Regional Director Benjamin Tuggle and Refuge Manager Linda Miller:

We write to you today to request that you withdraw the temporary boating restrictions issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on May 20, 2015 that are currently prohibiting waterskiing, tubing, wakeboarding and towing of other recreational crafts in a backwater area historically used by wake-causing watercraft.

As you know, the Service [issued new motorized boating restrictions](#) on May 20, 2015, that expanded a no wake zone on Lake Havasu, effectively prohibiting tubing, waterskiing and wake boarding in an area utilized by recreational enthusiasts for decades. This action was taken with no advance notice and without opportunity for public comment. These new mandates were announced and implemented just two days before Memorial Day Weekend – an economically vital weekend as tourists visiting Lake Havasu spend more than \$200 million annually and support 4,000 full-time jobs. Further, 75% of tourists are interested in waterskiing and recreational boating activities while visiting Havasu.

The Service has attempted to justify the May 2015 “temporary restrictions” by stating they are necessary to address safety concerns. The Arizona Game and Fish Department recently [submitted formal comments refuting this claim](#), stating there were only four incidents in the last three years in this area, three groundings and one swamping. The Department went on to state that “the temporary restriction imposed in May, 2015...includes a safe, traditional, very popular waterskiing and wakeboarding flat-area...[The Service] does not adequately justify this additional restriction and that the impacts to recreation could be significant...The reported events do not support the existence of a safety concern.”

On April 12, 2016, the Service announced a draft recreational boating compatibility determination (CD) and the agency’s intent to pursue even more boating restrictions on Lake Havasu. Due to significant opposition, the Service withdrew the CD on June 16<sup>th</sup> and suspended the agency’s pursuit of the April 12 proposed restrictions. We applaud Dr. Tuggle and the Service for heeding the concerns of the community and withdrawing the April 12th CD.

However, the Service still has not reopened the area closed on May 20, 2015 that started this controversy. These “temporary restrictions” have now been in effect for more than a year. This area used to be a place where families taught their children to ski and wakeboard. Several special needs children no longer have

a safe place for these activities. Instead, these restrictions have created safety issues as more people have been confined to a smaller space with boats traveling 70 miles per hour.

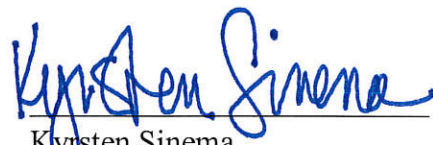
If the Service is interested in working with the community and other stakeholders, as stated in the June 16, 2016 press release, then the Service should reopen the backwater area that was temporarily closed to motorized boating activities in May of 2015.

We appreciate your attention and consideration on this matter and look forward to hearing from you all soon. As always, we ask that this matter be handled in strict accordance with agency rules, regulations, and guidelines.

Sincerely,



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



Kyrsten Sinema  
Member of Congress



Paul Cook  
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick  
Member of Congress



David Schweikert  
Member of Congress



Matt Salmon  
Member of Congress



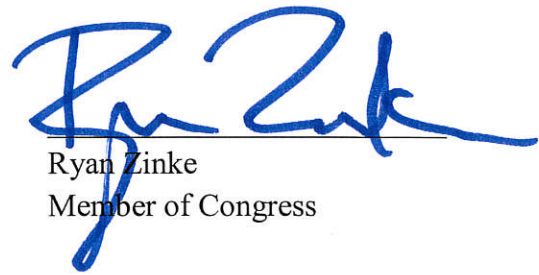
Trent Franks  
Member of Congress



Devin Nunes  
Member of Congress



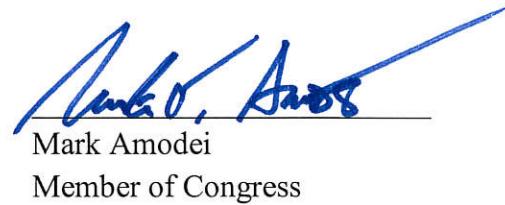
Jeff Duncan  
Member of Congress



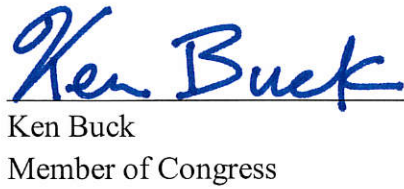
Ryan Zinke  
Member of Congress



Scott Tipton  
Member of Congress



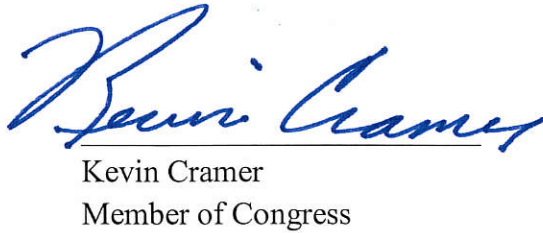
Mark Amodei  
Member of Congress



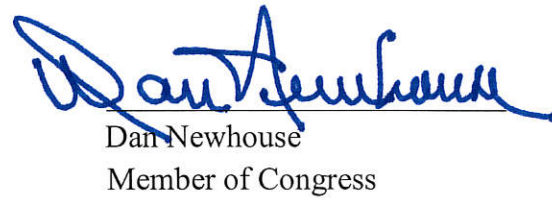
Ken Buck  
Member of Congress



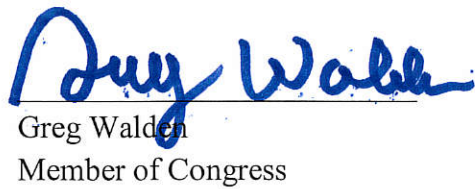
Ted Yoho FL-3  
Member of Congress



Kevin Cramer  
Member of Congress



Dan Newhouse  
Member of Congress



Greg Walden  
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock  
Member of Congress



Walter B. Jones  
Member of Congress



Steve Pearce  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cynthia Lummis". The signature is stylized with a large initial "C" and a flourish at the end.

Cynthia Lummis  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Crescent Hardy". The signature is stylized with a large initial "C" and a flourish at the end.

Crescent Hardy  
Member of Congress