

May 15<sup>th</sup> 2020

Mr. John Richardson  
Forestry Programs Administrator  
Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management  
110 West Washington, Suite 100, Phoenix AZ 85007  
Re: Letter of Support for the Arizona Game and Fish Department's HVR Grant Application

Mr. Richardson,

I have been asked on behalf of the Arizona Deer Association (ADA) to provide this letter to support the Arizona Game and Fish Department's application for *Fuel Reduction in GMU 18a* for funding under the Department of Forestry and Fire Management's 2020 Hazardous Fuels Reduction Grant.

As Chairman of the Congressional Western Caucus and Ranking Member of the House of Natural Resources Energy and Minerals Subcommittee, I am acutely familiar with the challenges facing the West. In April of 2019, Western Caucus Members and I led and submitted multiple submissions for fiscal year 2020 Appropriations bills in order to ensure active management of our nation's forests, prevent catastrophic wildfires, and protect our communities; these submissions urged prioritization of hazardous fuels reduction.

District 4 in Northern Arizona has been plagued with encroachment of woody vegetation, especially in northern Mohave County. One of my Key Issues is Restoring Healthy Forests and Preventing Dangerous Wildfires and I have been at the front lines fighting for proactive, solutions oriented, and fiscally sustainable policies that restore the environment, improve public safety, and put people back to work in our forests.

In this project's footprint, there are homes, ranchettes, and infrastructure that ranchers and utility companies depend on to make a living, and provide for Arizona. Taking action now to remove these fuels will help protect everyone that calls this part of the state home and protect the community's bottom line. In addition, thinning these forests will create jobs and increase overall ecosystem health. God Bless America.