Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 1, 2018

Office of Governor Doug Ducey
State Capitol
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Ducey:

We write to express grave concern over the alleged conduct of Arizona State Parks and Trails Director, Sue Black involving knowing development on protected historical sites within state parks lands. We encourage you to request her immediate resignation so as to avoid further damage to Arizona and Native American antiquities.

Whistleblower reports indicate repeated instances of Director Black's reckless disregard for well-established procedures designed to minimize damage to lands identified as containing protected cultural and historic sites. As you know, making enhancements to such sites without proper approvals is a blatant violation of the Arizona Antiquities Act and puts tribal artifacts at unique and irreparable risk.

We are additionally concerned that these activities may further represent violations of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act and urge you to ensure compliance with these bedrock protections for Native American cultural legacy.

Finally, reports suggest that repeated internal cautions against taking this illegal course of action were unheeded and at times even discouraged by Director Black. This, taken alongside separate reports of inappropriate conduct demonstrate her unsuitability for this role.

We are pleased your office has announced it will "review" this matter. We ask that you direct your administration to conduct a thorough investigation that includes the following minimum parameters to assess damages and restore public trust:

- Direct reviews of each of the alleged instances of the Parks Department proceeding with construction or development activities on protected sites without proper approval including at: Tonto Natural Bridge State Park, Slide Rock State Park, and Havasu Riviera State Park
- Assess what if any damage was caused by each of these development activities

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- Identify what internal recourse is available to employees who are discouraged from following established law or policy or directed to proceed with actions they know to be illegal. Ensure employees are aware of and have access to these resources.

Thank you for your attention to this serious matter.

Sincerely,

Ruben Gallego
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs

Tom O'Halleran
MEMBER OF CONGRESS