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TOM O'HALLERAN
1ST DISTRICT, ARIZONA

March 20, 2020

Governor Doug Ducey
Office of the Governor of Arizona
1700 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Governor Ducey,

I am deeply concerned that Tribal Nations are not receiving adequate access to resources and information from the State to effectively prepare for and respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in their communities. As you know COVID-19 cases have been confirmed on the Navajo Nation where transmission has been rapid—increasing from one to fourteen in less than three days. An effective response to a pandemic of such severe proportions requires effective communication and sufficient resources to enable communities to treat individuals without causing further exposure. To achieve this goal, it is essential that Tribal communities have the same access to all State resources and information.

I am concerned that there has not been sufficient communication from the State to Tribal Leaders and efforts to deploy resources to Indian Country have been slow. The rapid increase in the number of positive cases may have been limited by swift State actions. Ensuring Tribes have enough testing kits, personal protective equipment (PPE), and other supplies can only be achieved by providing parity with state and local governments. This situation has become urgent, as I now understand patients presenting symptoms are being turned away from hospitals due to a lack of tests.

During this public health emergency, we must work quickly ensure that every Arizonan has meaningful access to State resources, like rapid testing kits, and information. I look forward to working with you to protect our communities and to prevent widespread transmission of this virus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom O'Halleran".

Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress