

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

RECEIVED

010453

2017 JUL 31 PM 12:18

July 28, 2017

OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

The Honorable Sonny Perdue  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable Ryan Zinke  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretaries Perdue and Zinke,

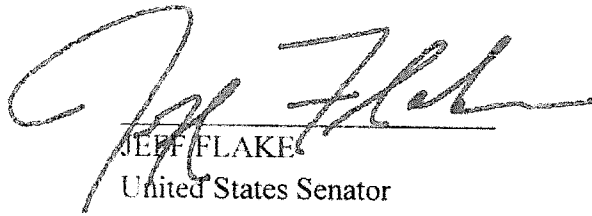
We write to bring to your attention gateway communities and the importance of maintaining productive relationships between local and federal stakeholders. As Secretary Zinke highlighted in an April 19 press release, strong economic connections exist between National Parks and the local gateway communities, where visitors have access to nearly \$20 billion of lodging, food, transportation, and recreation opportunities. In western states with large amounts of federal land, gateway communities are frequently in or near National Forests. This close proximity creates a situation that requires productive relationships between the local communities, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Forest Service.

Unfortunately, the Town of Tusayan, Arizona, a gateway community to the Grand Canyon National Park, is facing some challenges with U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Park Service. Tusayan is currently undertaking efforts to address the housing, water, and telecommunications needs of their residents, many of whom provide much-needed visitor services for those who visit the Grand Canyon National Park. Throughout this process, the Town has encountered unnecessary obstacles in acquiring an easement for fiber optic lines and obtaining a ground lease for a housing trailer. Earlier this year we asked the U.S. Forest Service to respond to the town's request to resume the processing of a 2014 application for a road easement after the processing was abruptly halted despite the fact that the applicants had made a significant financial investment in the project. All of these issues seem to be symptomatic of a larger problem: a poor working relationship between the federal land management agencies and their local neighbors.

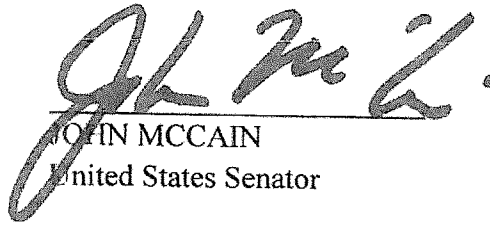
As the heads of Departments that collectively own or hold in trust more than two-thirds of the land in the State of Arizona, your decisions can significantly influence the economy and success of these communities. To that end, we ask you to direct the U.S. Forest Service and

National Park Service to reinitiate good-faith discussions with the Town of Tusayan on moving forward with analyses of any future proposals to address housing, water, and telecommunications needs in and near the Grand Canyon National Park. We thank you in advance for your continued time and attention to these issues. As always, we ask that this matter be handled in strict accordance with all applicable agency rules, regulations, and ethical guidelines.

Sincerely,



JEFF FLAKE  
United States Senator



JOHN MCCAIN  
United States Senator



Lowery, Steve &lt;steve\_lowery@ios.doi.gov&gt;

---

**Fwd: Letter from Sen. Flake and Sen. McCain re Town of Tusayan**

1 message

---

**Juliette Lillie** <juliette\_lillie@ios.doi.gov>  
To: Cannuscio Lisa <Lisa\_Cannuscio@ios.doi.gov>  
Cc: Lowery Steve <Steve\_Lowery@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Jul 31, 2017 at 7:15 AM

Juliette Lillie  
Director Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C St NW  
Washington DC 20240

PH: 202-219-7724

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Micah Chambers <micah\_chambers@ios.doi.gov>  
**Date:** July 30, 2017 at 7:38:32 PM EDT  
**To:** Robert Howarth <robert\_howarth@ios.doi.gov>, juliette\_lillie@ios.doi.gov, Christopher Salotti <chris\_salotti@ios.doi.gov>, Pamela Barkin <pamela\_barkin@ios.doi.gov>, todd\_willens@ios.doi.gov, melissa\_kuckro@nps.gov  
**Subject:** **Fwd: Letter from Sen. Flake and Sen. McCain re Town of Tusayan**

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Lehnhardt, Melanie (Flake)" <Melanie\_Lehnhardt@flake.senate.gov>  
**Date:** July 28, 2017 at 11:38:20 AM EDT  
**To:** "Chambers, Micah" <micah\_chambers@ios.doi.gov>  
**Cc:** "Podolak, Chuck (Flake)" <Chuck\_Podolak@flake.senate.gov>, "Nelson, Michael (Flake)" <Michael\_Nelson@flake.senate.gov>, "Davis, Buchanan (Flake)" <Buchanan\_Davis@flake.senate.gov>  
**Subject:** **Letter from Sen. Flake and Sen. McCain re Town of Tusayan**

Hi Micah,

I wanted to share with you a digital copy of a letter that was sent to Secretaries Zinke and Perdue today from Senators Flake and McCain. This letter is about some of the issues that face the Town of Tusayan, Arizona, which serves as a gateway community to Grand Canyon National Park. Please let me know if you have any questions about the attached, and have a great weekend.

Thank you,

7/31/2017

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fwd: Letter from Sen. Flake and Sen. McCain re Town of Tusayan

Melanie


**Melanie Lehnhardt**

Legislative Aide


Senator Jeff Flake (R-AZ)

202-224-4521

**4 attachments**

 **mime-attachment.html**  
1K

 **noname.html**  
1K

 **07.28.17 Flake McCain Letter to DOI, USDA re Town of Tusayan.pdf**  
308K

 **noname.html**  
1K