



STATE OF ARIZONA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KATIE HOBBS  
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

December 8, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Urgent Request Regarding Our Southern Border**

Dear President Biden,

As Governor of Arizona, I write to you with an urgent request regarding our southern border and to express my deep concern for the situation that has been created by the closure of the Lukeville Port of Entry. For far too long, Arizona has continued to bear the burden of federal inaction in managing our southern border. The recent decision to close the Lukeville Port of Entry has led to an unmitigated humanitarian crisis in the area and has put Arizona's safety and commerce at risk. Our ports of entry are essential to our state and our country's economy, and it is vital that they be properly staffed and resourced to continue to fuel economic growth in the state.

Of the approximately 2,500 National Guard members currently on federal active duty orders on the southern border, 243 are already in the Tucson Sector and can be reassigned to reopen the Lukeville Port of Entry. I request that you do so immediately. Further, to the extent it is necessary, I am requesting that additional National Guard members currently on federal active duty orders be reassigned to Arizona to assist U.S. Customs and Border Protection to reopen the Lukeville Port of Entry. With this additional manpower, I am confident you will have the resources necessary to continue trade and tourism through the port while keeping Arizona communities safe.

The safety of our citizens and the prosperity of our economy are intertwined, and I firmly believe that this decision will allow us to secure Arizona's ports of entry and alleviate the burden on our border communities.

Additionally, due to the federal government's failure to secure our border, the State of Arizona has spent \$512,529,333 on border operations including migrant transportation, drug interdiction, and law enforcement. Pursuant to Section 26-105(E) of the Arizona Revised

Statutes, I am requesting the federal government reimburse the state for these expenses. I anticipate coordination between our offices to secure these funds. I look forward to your prompt response on the above matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'KH' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that tapers to the right.

Katie Hobbs  
Governor  
State of Arizona