

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 21, 2026

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary of Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Burgum:

We write regarding recent reporting that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is considering four proposed data center and data center-related infrastructure projects in Arizona that would use over 3,000 acres of federal public lands.¹ Prior to taking any further action on these proposed projects, we ask that the Department of Interior (Interior) brief Arizona's congressional delegation on the full scope of the projects under consideration.

Executive Order 14318 established an expedited permitting process for data centers, but the order did not waive existing federal permitting, environmental review, or Tribal consultation requirements, including permits under the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act.² We need greater clarity on how Interior's legal obligations will be carried out, including what permitting processes, public notice, and opportunities for public engagement will apply, should these projects move forward.

Expedited timelines should not come at the expense of the analysis and review required under federal law. BLM state directors were reportedly given three days this month to identify candidate parcels for these projects.³ BLM administers 5,000 rights-of-way on 550,000 acres in Arizona.⁴ Our state and BLM have worked closely in the past to ensure projects come online with minimal disruptions to our public lands and surrounding communities. We insist on the same approach regarding these data center projects.

Thorough environmental analysis is particularly important in Arizona, where data centers can place significant additional demands on water and electricity supplies. A single 100-megawatt data center consumes as much water in a day as 2,600 households in a state where water supplies

¹ Mara Hoplamazian & Jade Lozada, "Trump Is Considering More Data Centers on Public Lands Than Previously Known," *The Washington Sun*, Sept. 18, 2026.

² Exec. Order No. 14318, "Accelerating Federal Permitting of Data Center Infrastructure" (July 23, 2025), 90 Fed. Reg. 35,837 and Edward Boling and Laura Molton, "Data centers on or across federal lands: What developers need to know," *Ashurst, Perkins, Cole*, July 29, 2026.

³ Eric Katz & Mara Hoplamazian, "Trump orders BLM to find public land for data centers," *The Washington Sun*, Sept. 13, 2026.

⁴ Bureau of Land Management, "BLM-authorized rights of way on public lands connect Arizona's economy, communities," July 15, 2026.

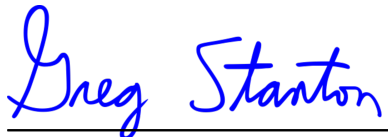
are already under sustained pressure.⁵ Cooling demand for data centers peaks during the hottest hours of the hottest days, when Arizona's grid is least able to absorb it. Communities need clear information about these impacts before projects move forward, making transparency and public participation essential.

We request that Interior brief our delegation on the projects under consideration in Arizona. In particular, we request the following information in writing, followed by a briefing to our offices no later than October 2, 2026:

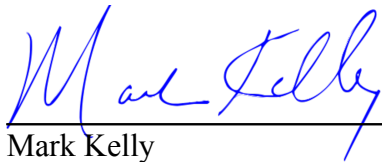
- Every pending data center or data center-related right-of-way application in Arizona and the parcels identified in response to the Department's recent request for candidate sites;
- The level of environmental review the Department will apply to each Arizona proposal, and every categorical exclusion it has established or intends to invoke for data center projects under Executive Order 14318;
- Whether BLM will authorize data centers by amending rights-of-way granted for other uses, and whether any pending Arizona application is such an amendment;
- The public process BLM will follow for each Arizona proposal, including when scoping and comment periods will open, how long they will run, whether BLM will hold public meetings in the affected communities, and how BLM will notify local governments and elected officials; and,
- The projected water demand and its source and the peak electric load for each proposed project in Arizona.

Arizonans are entitled to transparency and robust public review as BLM considers such developments on our federal lands. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Ruben Gallego
United States Senator



Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Adelita S. Grijalva
Member of Congress

⁵ Congressional Research Service, "Data Centers and Water: Frequently Asked Questions," July 31, 2026.

cc: The Honorable Steve Pearce, BLM Director