

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 12, 2023

Dr. Erwin Gianchandani  
Assistant Director  
Directorate for Technology, Innovation and  
Partnerships  
National Science Foundation  
2415 Eisenhower Avenue  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Dr. Gianchandani:

As you select sites for the [Regional Innovation Engines](#), we write in strong support of the Sustainability Innovation for the Southwest (SIES) proposal led by Arizona State University.

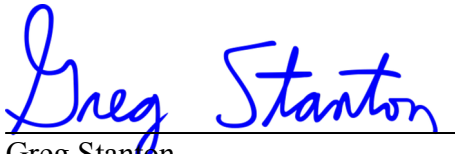
Under the leadership of ASU, SIES will create a regional hub to develop, launch, and scale innovative water-energy sustainability technologies, governance and infrastructure solutions. The SIES consortium includes contributions from the University of Utah, the Desert Research Institute, the University of Nevada Las Vegas, Maricopa Community Colleges, the SciTech Institute, the Water Research Foundation, and industry partners across Arizona, Utah and Nevada.

Energy and water transitions are imminent in the Southwest, which is attracting economic and population growth while also coping with drought conditions and reductions in water allocations. As we continue to grow vital industries in this region, it is imperative to secure the energy and water supply to ensure that anchor and emerging industries can continue to thrive, and that we see continued investment in our economy and communities. Given the urgency of water and energy issues and the vast number of initiatives, projects and organizations focused on energy and water security goals and solutions, this region is poised to become a center of innovation for a new economy through strategic visioning, coordination, user-inspired research and translation, and workforce development.

SIES will accelerate the STEM-based innovations that will solidify our region as a national leader in securing the water supply, transitioning to clean energy, and achieving a net zero carbon economy. These include novel technologies and processes for industries and startups, governance and policy innovations, legal and regulatory frameworks to effectively leverage both public and private investments, and workforce development pipelines from K-12 through post-baccalaureate and postdoctoral researchers as well as STEM professionals.

We respectfully ask that you give this proposal full and fair consideration as you make this important funding decision.

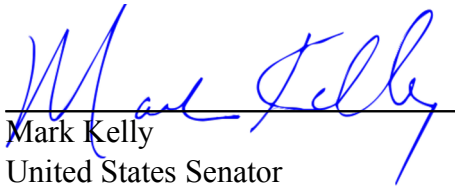
Sincerely,



Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Mark Kelly  
United States Senator



Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator