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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

June 17, 2026

**COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

RANKING MEMBER
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, AND
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE
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WESTERN HEMISPHERE SUBCOMMITTEE

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE STRATEGIC
COMPETITION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES
AND THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY**

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins,

I write with great concern regarding the current outbreak of the New World Screwworm (NWS) within the United States. With twelve confirmed domestic cases of the NWS, including a case within 500 miles of Arizona's state border, it appears inevitable that Arizona's own cattle growers and ranchers will soon face this pest.¹ I appreciate this Administration's and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) efforts to scale up border "tick" patrols, sterile-fly releases, and fly traps along the southern border. More must be done **today** to prevent, contain, and eradicate any outbreak in Arizona.

I urge you to take immediate steps to reestablish a sterile fly facility in Arizona, starting with an assessment of federal investments needed to bring back online a sterile fly dispersal facility in Douglas, Arizona. For two decades, the USDA-operated facility at Douglas Municipal Airport served as a key operational hub, producing sterile flies at scale and supporting a protective barrier along the U.S.-Mexico border.² Its location remains highly advantageous for the dispersal of sterile flies as NWS cases are detected close to our border. Congress recently advanced more funding dedicated to the eradication of NWS, which I hope can be directed to Douglas.

Additionally, resources must continue to support fly detection and verification efforts at the University of Arizona's College of Veterinary Medicine's Diagnostic Laboratory, which is one of three national sites screening for NWS.³ I urge you build on these diagnostic efforts by making use of direct hiring authorities to expand Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) staff and reinvest in international programs designed to monitor and counter spread of NWS in Central America.

The reemergence of NWS is a national security emergency that requires our utmost attention and a rapid, strategic surge of resources to the Southwest. I will continue to monitor the current

¹ <https://www.newsnationnow.com/animals/screwworm-cases-rise-12/>.

² <https://www.azfb.org/Article/As-USDA-and-US-Army-Corps-of-Engineers-Advance-New-World-Screwworm-Preparedness-with-New-Texas-Sterile-Fly-Facility-Arizona-Hopes-for-the-Same>.

³ <https://www.farmprogress.com/livestock/usda-names-arizona-as-test-site-for-new-world-screwworm>.

outbreak of NWS, and I am ready to work with USDA to combat this threat to Arizona and the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Stanton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Greg Stanton
Member of Congress