

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0309

August 1, 2022

Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Director
Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation
U.S. Department of Defense
2231 Crystal Drive, Suite 520
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Director O'Brien,

We write to you today regarding the Arizona Department of Transportation's (ADOT) proposal seeking a Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot (DCIP) Program grant to improve US 95 for the benefit of area residents and the U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG). As a DOD Major Range and Test Facility Base, YPG is a national asset that must be preserved to support test and evaluation activities that underpin US national security.

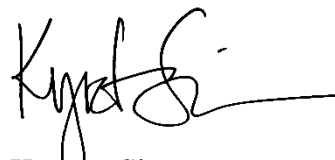
A 2017 study by the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA), using the highly regarded IMPLAN econometric model, concluded that the direct and indirect economic benefit of YPG was \$1.12 billion annually. Yuma Proving Ground is a major employer in the region, and it has long depended on two-lane, undivided US 95 as its main access route for moving its employees, visiting troops, and equipment. The need for improving the safety of US 95 was identified by ADOT in a 2007 Design Concept Report (DCR) for sixteen miles between Avenue 9E and Aberdeen Road, which is the connection between YPG and the City of Yuma. In the 15 years following the DCR findings, traffic has continued to increase, and there have been numerous fatal crashes in recent years.

The proposal will improve 3.8 miles of this highway between Rifle Range Road and the Wellton-Mohawk Canal Bridge, reducing congestion, increasing safety for YPG commuters, and boosting transportation efficiency for YPG operations. This type of off-base improvement offers a win-win outcome for the military installation and its host community, exactly as the grant program intended. In accordance with all existing rules, regulations, and ethical guidelines, we respectfully request you give this proposal full and fair consideration as you make this important funding decision.

Sincerely,



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator