



Arizona State Legislature

*1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007*

Acting Attorney General Jeffrey A. Rosen
United States Department of Justice
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Director Christopher Wray
Federal Bureau of Investigations
FBI Headquarters
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20535-0001

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

Acting Attorney General Rosen and Director Wray;

On Wednesday, January 6, an armed mob of domestic terrorists breached the walls of the United States Capitol to forcefully interfere with the certification of a free and fair national election. The terrorists, intent on executing a coup, threatened elected officials and staff, terrorized media professionals, destroyed federal property, and ultimately caused the death of five people, including a Capitol Police officer who was bludgeoned to death with a fire extinguisher. Many in the mob wore military or police tactical gear and carried zip-tie restraints, signaling a high level of preparation and coordination for the events that occurred.

This was an attack on our country. As the full extent of the insurrection unfolds, we fervently urge you to investigate the federal and state lawmakers directly involved, as well as those who, through words and conduct, aided and abetted sedition, treason or any other federal crimes.

The events of January 6 were not spontaneous, nor were they the random acts of a diffuse handful of unconnected individuals. For weeks prior to the breach, a group of Republican Arizona legislators and legislators-elect publicly advocated for the overthrow of the election results which encouraged precisely the kind of violent conduct that we witnessed.

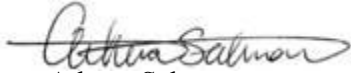
Their own social media posts strongly suggest that Arizona State Representative Mark Finchem and former Representative Anthony Kern were present at the riot in Washington D.C. on January 6 and actively encouraged the mob, both before and during the attack on the Capitol. *See, e.g., [1-6-21 Twitter Post by Rep. Kern](#)* (equating the rally to D-Day); [photos on the Capitol steps](#). After the attack, Finchem and Kern sought to conceal the consequences of their conduct by falsely blaming "Antifa."

One of the riot's organizers, Ali Alexander, publicly claimed to have planned and organized the insurrection with Arizona Congressmen Paul Gosar and Andy Biggs; stating in a broadcast that "[W]e four schemed up putting maximum pressure on [C]ongress while they were voting..." [1-8-21 Twitter Thread Jason Paladino](#).

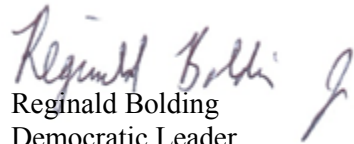
They did all of this in public. What they did outside of plain view we do not yet know. But there is evidence to indicate that Arizona Representatives Mark Finchem, Anthony Kern, Paul Gosar and Andy Biggs encouraged, facilitated, participated and possibly helped plan this anti-democratic insurrection on January 6. It is vital to any current or future federal investigations, and ultimately to the Arizona public they represent, that we learn what these elected officials knew about this planned insurrection and when they knew it.

We the undersigned members of the Arizona Legislature, urge you to fully investigate the extent of their involvement. Expedient timing of this request is critical, as if you find any evidence that these individuals incited, encouraged, or participated in the lawless behavior that took place on that day, we believe they would be potentially criminally liable and ineligible for public office under Section 3 of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, as having engaged in insurrection and rebellion¹.

Signed,



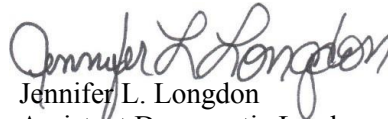
Athena Salman
Ranking Member, Government & Elections
State Representative, Legislative District 26



Reginald Bolding
Democratic Leader
State Representative, Legislative District 27




Rebecca Rios
Democratic Leader
State Senator, Legislative District 27



Jennifer L. Longdon
Assistant Democratic Leader
State Representative, Legislative District 24



Lupe Contreras
Assistant Democratic Leader
State Senator, Legislative District 19



Domingo DeGrazia
Democratic Whip
State Representative, Legislative District 10



Martin Quezada
Democratic Whip
State Senator, Legislative District 29



Victoria Steele
Democratic Whip
State Senator, Legislative District 9

¹ "No Person shall . . . hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State . . . [if] having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature . . . to support the Constitution of the United States, [they] shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion." U.S. Const., Section 3, Amendment XIV.



Juan Mendez
State Senator, Legislative District 26



Melody Hernandez
State Representative, Legislative District 26



Charlene Fernandez
State Representative, Legislative District 4



Raquel Terán
State Representative, Legislative District 30



Rosanna Gabaldon
State Senator, Legislative District 2



Lela Alston
State Senator, Legislative District 24



Diego Rodriguez
State Representative, Legislative District 27



Jennifer Pawlik
State Representative, Legislative District 17



Pamela Powers Hannley
State Representative, Legislative District 9



Randall Friese
State Representative, Legislative District 9



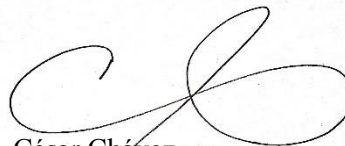
Lorenzo Sierra
State Representative, Legislative District 19



Alma Hernandez
State Representative, Legislative District 3



Andres Cano
State Representative, Legislative District 3



César Chávez
State Representative, Legislative District 29



Kirsten Engel
State Senator, Legislative District 10



Richard C. Andrade
State Representative, Legislative District 29



Daniel Hernandez, Jr.
State Representative, Legislative District 2



Sally Ann Gonzales
State Senator, Legislative District 3



Judy Schwiebert
State Representative, Legislative District 20



Mitzi Epstein
State Representative, Legislative District 18



Jennifer Jermaine
State Representative, Legislative District 18



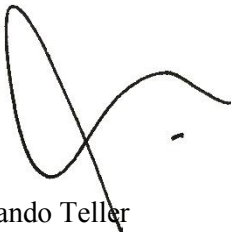
Stephanie Stahl Hamilton
State Representative, Legislative District 10



Myron Tsosie
State Representative, Legislative District 7



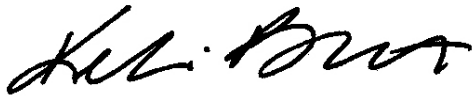
Robert Meza
State Representative, Legislative District 30



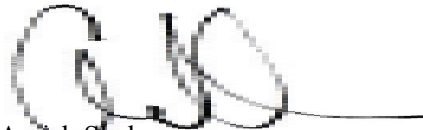
Arlando Teller
State Representative, Legislative District 7



Diego Espinoza
State Representative, Legislative District 19



Kelli Butler
State Representative, Legislative District 28



Amish Shah
State Representative, Legislative District 24



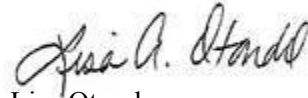
Christine Marsh
State Senator, Legislative District 28



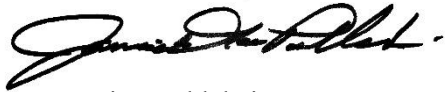
Sean Bowie
State Senator, Legislative District 18



Andrea Dalessandro
State Representative, Legislative District 2



Lisa Otondo
State Senator, Legislative District 4



Jamescita Peshlakai
State Senator, Legislative District 7



Tony Navarrete
State Senator, Legislative District 30

cc/ Michael Bailey, United States Attorney, District of Arizona
cc/ Esther Winne, United States Attorney, District of Arizona
cc/ Sean L. Kaul, Phoenix Field Office, Federal Bureau of Investigations