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CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
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United States Senate

March 7, 2016

The Honorable Dan Ashe
Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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Arlington, VA 22203

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Dear Director Ashe:

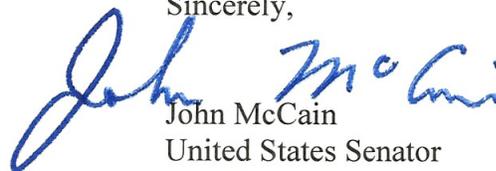
I am inquiring about the status of the repairs to the Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery near Lake Mohave, Arizona.

As you'll recall, we worked together to develop an agreement between your agency, Mohave County, and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission to restore trout rearing operations at Willow Beach NFH. A central component of that agreement was your commitment that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) would partner with state and county agencies to affect the timely repair the hatchery and install a new floating barge pump station to supply the hatchery with river water. Trout stocking at Lake Mohave is a top priority for nearby Bullhead City, Arizona, and the region. Sportsfishing generates about \$75 million a year and supports more than 1,700 jobs in places like Bullhead City and Laughlin.

I am concerned that your agency's commitment is slipping. My office has been informed, indirectly, that USFWS has pushed back the contract completion date to May 2016 and possibly to July 2016. Please provide me with a written update on the status of repairs, identify the contractor working on the project, provide an explanation for why your target dates appear to be slipping and what actions you are taking to ensure that production levels resume this summer 2016. Additionally, I'd like to receive a project schedule that describes the plan of action and associated milestones that support the current contract completion date. Finally, I respectfully request that USFWS ensures my office is briefed with monthly progress reports on this project.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,


John McCain
United States Senator