

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 16, 2009

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
212A Whitten Building
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
Mail Stop 6242
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

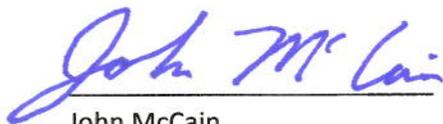
Dear Secretary Vilsack and Secretary Salazar:

We received your letter of July 14 in which you raised additional concerns about the Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act (S. 409).

As you know, in testimony before the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests on June 17, the Forest Service and the Bureau of Reclamation raised initial concerns about the bill, but, to the dissatisfaction of the subcommittee, noted they hadn't completed their analysis.

While your letter supplements that testimony in great detail, it is another missed opportunity for the Administration to take a clear position on the bill, which presents tremendous conservation and employment opportunities for Arizona. We respectfully request that the Administration make its position known and identify a way forward as we work to advance this proposal through the legislative process.

Sincerely,



John McCain
United States Senator



Jon Kyl
United States Senator