



# NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative David Marshall (R-7)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

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Tuesday, April 8, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Republicans Lead Effort to Restart Arizona's Coal Plants, Preserve Energy Independence and Grid Reliability

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – State Representative David Marshall and 22 fellow members of the Arizona House and Senate Republican majorities have sent a letter to U.S. Interior Secretary Doug Burgum, urging him to use his full authority to stop the retirement of coal-fired power plants in Arizona and support the reactivation of those already shut down. A copy of the letter is attached.

**“Coal has powered this state for decades and provided jobs for Arizona families,”** said Representative Marshall. **“The federal government turned its back on towns like Joseph City and Page, forcing needless closures through bureaucratic red tape and overregulation. Now, we have a President and an administration that understands the importance of reliable baseload power and rural communities. We’re ready to work with them to turn the lights back on. These plants are essential to maintaining grid stability as demand grows from data centers, AI, and resurgent U.S. manufacturing. The need for dispatchable energy has never been greater.”**

The lawmakers’ request aligns with President Donald J. Trump’s Executive Orders [14154](#) and [14156](#), which declare a national energy emergency and direct the federal government to unleash domestic energy production, including coal. Arizona Republicans urge immediate action to preserve the remaining units at the Cholla Power Plant near Joseph City and to revive generation at sites like the Navajo Generating Station near Page, which closed in 2019.

The closure of these coal-fired power plants has hurt northern and eastern Arizona communities—causing big job losses, declining school enrollment, and falling local revenues. These coal facilities long served as economic engines for working-class families and rural schools, which now face an uncertain future.

**“The war on coal has devastated northern Arizona,”** said Representative Marshall. **“Radical environmental groups shut down the timber industry, causing catastrophic wildfires. Now we face a full-scale assault as massive wind turbines threaten to scar land in northern Arizona. I won’t let them do the same to coal—we must fight to keep these communities alive. With these executive orders in place, now is the time to reverse course and restore power and prosperity to rural Arizona.”**

*David Marshall is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 7, which includes Pinal, Gila, Coconino, and Navajo Counties. He also serves as Chairman of the House Committee on Public Safety & Law Enforcement. Follow him on X at @DaveMarshallAZ.*

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# Arizona State Legislature

1700 West Washington

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

April 4, 2025

The Honorable Doug Burgum  
Secretary of the Interior  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

**Re: *Restarting Coal-fired Power Plants to Promote Energy Independence and Support Arizona's Economy***

Dear Secretary Burgum:

We, the undersigned Republican members of the Arizona House of Representatives and the Arizona State Senate, are writing in support of your recent statements proposing to restart and revitalize shuttered coal plants and to delay the retirement of existing coal plants, consistent with President Trump's Executive Orders, *Declaring a National Energy Emergency* and *Unleashing American Energy*.

Coal has been an essential part of Arizona's energy grid for decades. Our state has featured several coal-fired power plants, including the Navajo Generating Station near Page, Springerville Generating Station near Springerville, Coronado Generating Station near St. Johns, Apache Generating Station near Cochise, and Cholla Power Plant near Joseph City, which have been essential to maintaining a safe and reliable grid and fostering a thriving economy. Unfortunately, many of these plants have been scheduled to close, and several units have already been retired, due to burdensome federal regulations and unfair tax incentives that increase costs and skew markets away from reliable, baseload energy resources. A list of past, pending, and planned plant retirements can be found below:

## Past Retirements

|                           |                  |          |             |
|---------------------------|------------------|----------|-------------|
| Four Corners Power Plant  | 3 out of 5 Units | 500 MW   | 2013        |
| Cholla Generating Station | 2 out of 4 Units | 703 MW   | 2015 & 2020 |
| Navajo Generating Station | 3 out of 3 Units | 2,250 MW | 2019        |

## Pending Retirements

|                           |                  |        |      |
|---------------------------|------------------|--------|------|
| Cholla Generating Station | 2 out of 4 Units | 426 MW | 2025 |
|---------------------------|------------------|--------|------|

## Planned Retirements

|                                  |                  |          |           |
|----------------------------------|------------------|----------|-----------|
| Springerville Generating Station | 3 out of 3 Units | 1,218 MW | 2027-2032 |
| Four Corners Power Plant         | 2 out of 5 Units | 1,540 MW | 2031      |
| Coronado Generating Station      | 2 out of 2 Units | 762 MW   | 2032      |

The closure of Navajo Generating Station in 2019 and ongoing retirement of Cholla Power Plant have led to significant job losses, economic hardships, and a reduction in affordable and reliable energy options for our communities. These closures also result in negative consequences for families and schools—causing student enrollment declines—and create disincentives for small businesses or developers to invest in rural cities. Revitalizing these plants and supporting the continued operation of our remaining units can help to bridge the gap in energy production as we work to meet rising demand.

We believe supporting these plants is necessary to achieve energy security and promote economic prosperity in our state and nationwide. Additionally, as President Trump's Executive Order emphasizes, it is imperative that state and federal authorities work collaboratively to expedite the approval of energy projects that support our national interests. Many of these sites can accommodate additional electric generation resources, including coal, natural gas, and nuclear energy resources like small modular reactors.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that you utilize all lawful authorities available to your office to prevent the additional retirement of coal-fired power plants in our state and to facilitate the restart of plants that have been unfairly retired, ensuring that any necessary permitting processes are streamlined to allow for rapid and responsible implementation.

We believe that reactivating Arizona's shuttered coal plants and bolstering our remaining coal fleet would unleash a reliable, diversified energy supply to support local industries, creating good-paying jobs and reducing our reliance on foreign energy sources in the process. We stand ready to support your efforts in this endeavor and look forward to working with you to implement the necessary steps for a stronger, more secure energy future for Arizona and the United States.

Sincerely,



David Marshall, Sr.  
Representative, District 7



Steve B. Montenegro  
Speaker of the House  
District 29



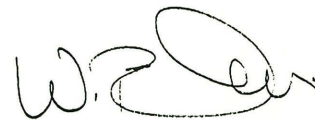
Michael Carbone  
House Majority Leader  
District 25



Selina Bliss  
Representative, District 1



Quang Nguyen  
Representative, District 1



Walter Blackman  
Representative, District 7



Khyl Powell  
Representative, District 14



Chris Lopez  
Representative, District 16



Rachel Jones  
Representative, District 17



Gail Griffin  
Representative, District 19



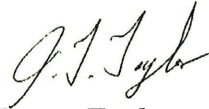
Lupe Diaz  
Representative, District 19



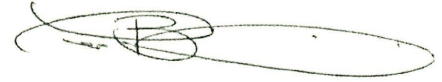
Lisa Fink  
Representative, District 27



David Livingston  
Representative, District 28



James Taylor  
Representative, District 29



Leo Biasiucci  
Representative, District 30



John Gillette  
Representative, District 30



Mark Finchem  
Senator, District 1



Shawnna Bolick  
Senator, District 2



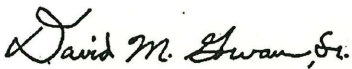
John Kavanagh,  
Senator, District 3



Jake Hoffman  
Senator, District 15



Venden Leach  
Senator, District 17



David Gowan  
Senator, District 19



Hildy Angius  
Senator, District 30