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Protect Our Winters Action Fund Endorses Rep. Ruben Gallego for U.S. Senate, Jonathan Nez for U.S. House (CD-2)

Arizona's vibrant outdoor rec economy generates more than 106,000 jobs and \$11.7 Billion

Flagstaff, AZ – Protect Our Winters Action Fund (POW AF) announced today its endorsement of Rep. Ruben Gallego for Arizona's open Senate seat, and Jonathan Nez for Congress. Both Gallego and Nez have experience in protecting and preserving Arizona's environment and are committed to enacting policies that ensure action is taken on the ever-growing climate crisis.

During his time as a Congressman, Ruben Gallego has proven himself to be a tireless advocate for Arizona's beautiful landscape. He's enacted climate policies that will protect natural resources for generations. He fought to establish Bears Ears National Monument, protect the Tongass National Forest and introduced the Domestic Water Protection Act, maintaining a 97 percent lifetime approval rating from the League of Conservation Voters.

Jonathan Nez was the ninth president of the Navajo Nation, and has spent not just his career but his life working to preserve the land. He's been on the front lines, testifying before Congress against uranium mining encroaching on the land, for clean drinking water, clean air and more. Arizonans are at the forefront of the climate crisis, with drought, wildfires and overall temperature increasing every year.

"We are thrilled to endorse Ruben Gallego and Jonathan Nez. Their commitment to protecting our public lands, addressing climate change, and supporting the outdoor recreation economy aligns with our mission to create a sustainable and resilient future. Their voices will be pivotal in ensuring that Arizona's natural treasures are preserved for generations to come," said Ben Gubits, Vice President of Advocacy and Campaigns at Protect Our Winters Action Fund. "We understand the importance of having a strong voice from the Native American community in Congress. Jonathan Nez, former President of the Navajo Nation, brings invaluable experience and perspective that will enrich the legislative process and ensure that the concerns of Native American communities are heard and addressed."

"I met Mr. Nez at an Indigenous gathering on Navajo Mtn. I was there representing Lion Energy and setting up the sound system off solar panels and batteries. Mr. Nez took an immediate interest in my drive to give solar/storage units to those who are not hooked up to the grid because they are so remote or can't afford it. The first thing he said was, "Let me know how I can help you." Mr. Nez represents the frontline communities in climate change. Increasing temperatures, droughts, and wildfires exacerbate the health concerns," said Kitty Calhoun, Professional Climber and POW AF Alliance Member. "Many Indigenous people in Arizona are living without electricity and far too many don't have access to water for sanitation, drinking, or agriculture and have to haul it from miles away. Mr. Nez recognizes that water supply and air and soil quality affect us all and is committed to ensuring a healthy future and sustainable growth."

Arizona voters have a unique opportunity to elect leaders who are deeply connected to the state's landscapes and committed to a sustainable future. Protect Our Winters Action Fund urges all Arizonans to support Ruben Gallego for U.S. Senate and Jonathan Nez for U.S. House, and to stand with us in protecting our outdoor heritage and combating climate change.

About POW Action Fund

POW AF works to make action on climate change a top policy priority for the outdoor sports community and for legislators whose states are on the frontlines of the climate crisis. Climate change threatens the future of the Outdoor Recreation industry and the communities that depend on winter to power mountain economies. It threatens outdoor enthusiasts who recreate in our mountains, rivers, forests and public lands in every season. While the impacts of climate change stretch far beyond the recreation economy, these impacts deeply resonate with those of us who love the outdoors. By illustrating the unmistakable relationship between climate and the outdoors – the very element that brings us all together – the POW Action Fund turns the outdoor community's shared love of wild places into the political will needed to drive positive action on climate change.

For more information, visit powactionfund.org

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