

Thank you for your time and attention to these testimonies.

I am Kevin Rogers. I am an active farmer, but I also serve as President of the Arizona Farm Bureau. We have 22,000 members, and we are part of a federation of the oldest farm organization in this country. We represent production agriculture: farmers and ranchers, dairymen and nursery growers in this state.

As is typical with agriculture, these are very good times for some producers, while others struggle. This is not the place for an economic update, but I will say that agriculture is one of the bright spots in the U.S. economy – we are a “growth” industry in many ways. And here in Az we are a 10 + billion dollar industry .

I have three issues to address...but quickly before I do, I simply want to touch on the importance of the Navajo Generating Station...there is significant impact from this facility, but I want to stress its importance for agriculture and water movement. Without that power, CAP water would not be affordable.

Moving on:

First of all, we have people in this state and amongst our membership whose livelihood and security is threatened by border failures. Efficacy of control at the border varies, depending upon location, but those threatened should not have to live [in that fear](#). Their pleas should not go unnoticed. We work hard for freedoms in other countries, and we should continue to work just as hard for that same freedom here: freedom to be secure in place, in person and in family. As a parallel to this, agriculture needs visa reform to access legal and reliable labor supplies. Visa reform can also be another tool in the kit of border security.

Second, we continue to fiddle and our forests burn. The structure and process of managing this vast resource is broken. How many different ways can we say it? And every day we move from a fire season, we move closer to another. All of you are familiar with changes that can be made to the process...whether it deals with NEPA or Equal Access to Justice, but let's just skip to the bottom line...until we find ways to encourage and restore private industry to our forests, everything else is for naught. I did not say turn over. Of course it has to be managed within a framework, but my point is without private industry...the timbering and processing and product creation that comes from profit motives, [we](#) simply do not have the public resources to reduce the fuel load in a viable fashion. There is no money. I ask that we dedicate ourselves to fostering an environment that encourages private investment. As I have said before, we need our 3 C's for the forest, Cowboys, Cattle and Chainsaws!

Lastly, I mention air quality regulation. Air quality impacts all of our health, but if we don't regulate it realistically, it impacts business health and our economy. Despite the fact that the Administrator of the EPA has suggested to Congress it is not their intent to regulate agricultural dust...they are...and have been in Arizona for over a decade. Moreover, despite her suggestion, we are not even asking to be excused from regulation. We have been cooperating for over a decade. We have a program that allows us to create the natural dust we do in agriculture, if we are reducing overall the amount of dust we create. The problem is EPA keeps moving the goal

posts...agriculture moved with it in concert with everyone else...now it appears they are singling us out...even though we are less than 3 percent of the problem. Right now, we can't spot the goal posts and are uncertain where even the playing field is. We just finished putting together one of the most recent updated program, all transparent and with EPA present for all of our meetings. But yet they pull the rug at the last minute. Agriculture is the same as any other business – we crave certainty – tell us what you want and we will respond – we cannot respond to a moving target.

Thank you.