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*****News Release*****

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Arizonans Celebrate the One Year Anniversary of the Signing of the Inflation Reduction Act and its Historic Investments for Arizona Clean Energy and Jobs

(Phoenix, AZ) – Today., **Sierra Club’s Grand Canyon (Arizona) Chapter, Arizona Interfaith Power & Light, Poder Latinx, Moms Clean Air Force Arizona, and EDF Action** were joined by **Special Representative of the Southwest Mountain States Council of Carpenters of Local 1912 Bill Ruiz, Mike Corso with McCarthy Building Companies Renewable Energy and Storage Group, and Yara Marin, Western Regional Director, Vote Solar** to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), which was signed into law on August 16, 2022.

Arizonans won big with the unprecedented climate and clean energy investments approved in the historic Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Nearly 8 in 10 state residents support climate and clean energy investments like those included in these laws because Arizona is uniquely positioned to seize on the growth opportunities of a transition to a clean energy economy. These new investments will cut climate pollution and accelerate the growth of clean energy - protecting our air, our climate, our health and our communities while creating economic opportunity.

"Not only will the investments in the Inflation Reduction Act help reduce barriers to solar and other zero emission technologies in historically low income and Environmental Justice communities, it will also create thousands of new jobs. This is a major economic opportunity for our state, said **Yara Marin, Western Regional Director, Vote Solar.**"

Arizona stands in first place with the highest number of new clean energy jobs with more than **12,720 jobs** created and over \$8 Billion in clean energy project investments, thanks to the IRA.¹ Nationally, Arizona ranks **5th for total installed solar capacity** (up from 7th in 2022) with 6,457MW installed, which is enough to power 984,047 homes. As of Q1 2023, there are 8,337 solar jobs in the state and 368 solar companies comprised of 76 Manufacturers, 171 Installers/Developers, and 121 Other.²

"The impact of the IRA legislation is just beginning. As new solar and storage projects are announced across the nation, its momentum and impact will expand into more communities and households around the country," said **Mike Corso with McCarthy Building Companies Renewable Energy and Storage Group.** "Over the next decade we can expect expansive growth in the solar and clean energy

¹ Climate Power April 2023 Clean Energy Boom Report, https://climatepower.us/wp-content/uploads/sites/23/2023/05/April-2023_-Clean-Energy-Boom-Report.

²SEIA at <https://www.seia.org/state-solar-policy/arizona-solar>

sectors that will bring new career opportunities in construction and manufacturing to Arizona, which has been a leader in solar power innovation and development for many years. It's an exciting time for our state and for the industry!"

Since the IRA passed, **155 gigawatts (GW)** of new production capacity has been announced across the solar supply chain, and is projected to drive **an additional 160 gigawatts (GW) of solar** over the next 10 years when compared to a no-IRA scenario.³ In Arizona numerous new large-scale solar facilities are being developed, including a new 377MWdc/300MWac solar project with 300MW of battery storage being constructed in Tonopah by McCarthy Building Companies according to IRA labor requirements. The new facility will employ approximately 200 workers during peak construction, including solar installers, electricians, carpenters and operators.

"We're building a 21st Century America with a new generation of Union carpenters who are building clean energy," said **Bill Ruiz, Special Representative with the Southwest Mountain States Council of Carpenters of Local 1912.** "The IRA and its funding labor requirements is helping us do that."

The IRA investments are a down-payment on Arizona's future – a future with more clean energy, healthier communities, and less pollution, which is especially important in areas such as the Phoenix area which has some of the worst air quality in the country. Investing in clean energy means fewer hazardous air quality days, fewer missed work days, and fewer missed school days, and that, along with the jobs, is good for our communities and our economy.

A recording of the news conference can be viewed on YouTube [here](#).

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³SEIA at <https://www.seia.org/research-resources/impact-inflation-reduction-act>