NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives
Representative Mark Finchem (R-11)
1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rep. Finchem Responds to Sierra Club's Agenda-Driven Obstruction of Border Construction

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Representative Mark Finchem (R-11) today released the following statement regarding the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit's decision blocking the transfer of defense funds to finance the construction of a border wall, in a case brought by the Sierra Club:

"Whereas elected officials represent a plurality of the people by way of election, the Sierra Club is an unelected, unaccountable body that represents a very narrow, often times political agenda driven, special interest group that has received funds from offshore actors, some unfriendly to the interest of the United States of America.

"**The Ninth Circuit clearly got it wrong, and I am asking the Trump administration to file for certiorari to have a more superior court answer the question of whether the Sierra Club even has standing to bring these claims, and clarify the scope of the executive's Article II authority to defend the nation with the funds at his disposal for national defense.**

"**When it comes to damage done by human and drug traffickers across the very same lands the Sierra Club claims to hold a special reverence for, and which it objects to efforts to protect with a wall [which provides protection] in this case, they are silent hypocrites.**

"It is interesting to note that the Court avoided the argument made in our amicus brief, and instead posed a direct challenge to the Supreme Court's prior holding, and the stay that was issued against the injunction issued by the trial court."

Representative Finchem, who serves as chairman of the House Federal Relations Committee, previously filed an amicus curiae brief in the Ninth Circuit, arguing that the plaintiff-organizations Sierra Club and Southern Border Communities Coalition lacked standing to pursue their claims in federal court. The case is titled Sierra Club v. Trump, Nos. 19-16102, 19-16300, 19-16299, 19-16366 (9th Cir.).

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