Statement from Arizona House Speaker Rusty Bowers on the Political Persecution of Vladimir Kara-Murza

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Arizona House Speaker Rusty Bowers issued the following statement today regarding the arrest and political persecution of Russian opposition activist and leader Vladimir Kara-Murza by the regime of President Vladimir Putin.

“I am deeply disturbed over news reports regarding the arrest and political persecution of Russian opposition leader Vladimir Kara-Murza.

“At my invitation, Mr. Kara-Murza visited the Arizona House of Representatives in March to address our members and the people of Arizona about his courageous call for freedom in Russia and his condemnation of the war in Ukraine.

“According to news reports I have read, that address is now being used by the Russian government to prosecute and sentence him to 10 years in prison.

“Now is the time for all of us who live in free nations to hold Russian President Putin accountable for his aggressive actions. We in the west must pay attention to and shine a bright light on President Putin’s abhorrent and shocking authoritarian regime.

“Don’t forget about these freedom fighters, like Vladimir Kara-Murza. We must remember names!

“I will be sending a letter to U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Arizona’s U.S. Senators with this message, and to urge for the United States to use every diplomatic tool that it has to ensure the safety of Mr. Kara-Murza and other dissidents who are fighting against President Putin’s tyranny.”

Click here to view Vladimir Kara-Murza’s March 15th address before the Arizona House of Representatives: https://youtu.be/9GY1srohskk.

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