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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Open Letter to Arizona Congressional Leaders

Kykotsmovi, Ariz. - On behalf of the Hopi Tribe, we urge you to work with Congressional leadership to immediately end the partial government shutdown. This shutdown violates the trust obligations of the United States government to our Hopi-Tewa people.

Agencies such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Indian Health Service and other federal agencies that provide critical government services to our Hopi-Tewa people are caught up in unrelated politics over funding for a southern border wall. As the unnecessary and heedless shutdown drags on day to day, the well-being of our Hopi-Tewa people hangs in the balance. It is unconscionable that our people should suffer because of the failure of the Congress and the President to enact an FY2019 appropriation. America's longstanding, legally mandated obligation, to tribal nations should be honored no matter the political quarrels of the moment over a border wall.

The Hopi Tribe relies heavily on federal funding to provide key tribal government services, including but not limited to health care, public safety, housing, nutrition and food distribution, and social welfare services. This government shutdown destabilizes programs causing unnecessary fear and anxiety not only among our Hopi-Tewa people but others who reside and are employed on the Hopi Reservation.

The long-term effects of this shutdown will ripple throughout our villages and communities for months or even years following the reopening of the government. We implore the President and the United States Congress to end this stalemate and fulfill the special trust responsibilities and legal obligations of the federal government to the Hopi Tribe.

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