



KATIE HOBBS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

September 25, 2023

The Honorable Warren Petersen
President of the Senate
1700 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
wpetersen@azleg.gov

Re: Withdrawal of Agency Director Nominations

President Petersen,

It has become apparent over the past nine months that the Senate's process for reviewing and confirming agency director nominees has devolved into a sad display of partisan obstructionism. Instead of fulfilling your statutory obligations in good faith, you and the Committee on Director Nominations (the "Committee") that you enabled have proven yourselves unable or unwilling to carry out a valid process.

In January, you and your members expressed frustration at the speed at which my Office was submitting our official nomination packets for your review. We responded by submitting all of the paperwork within a matter of days. You have reciprocated with a process designed to slow walk nominees and create a political circus that is beneath the dignity of the Arizona State Senate. There are nearly three times as many nominees waiting for your review than have been considered to date. At this rate, I will be well into my second term before your political circus completes its job.

Not only is this process holding agencies that serve the people of Arizona hostage, it is wasting taxpayer dollars and all of our time. Our job is to serve the people of this State, and your abuse of the confirmation process will prevent that from getting done. If you have concerns about individuals' qualifications, simply say so. But it is clear the Senate's vetting process is not functioning as intended by law or tradition. For example, there have been instances where nominees have been scheduled to appear before a hearing that ends up never being held. There

have been instances where the Committee has approved nominees who then never get brought to the Senate floor for a vote. Legal and traditional vetting processes don't function in this way. Instead, it is clear that this Committee is being used as a weapon, wielded for the personal whim of a few legislators. This Committee, although ostensibly intended to evaluate the fitness for office of my nominees, is instead revealing the complete lack of fitness of the Committee Chair, Senator Jake Hoffman.

In addition to the disrespectful behavior that Senator Hoffman has regularly displayed during Committee hearings, he has repeatedly tried to leverage the confirmation of qualified nominees for the implementation of his policy preferences within the Executive Branch. For example, he publicly stated that he would not hold Committee hearings until I rescind various Executive Orders with which he personally disagrees. He has contacted nominees to imply that their confirmation hinged on the rescission of long-standing agency policies over which he has no authority. He has held up the confirmation of a nominee simply for identifying as pro-choice.

The people of Arizona elected me to get things done. It is my responsibility to run State government to realize a vision that delivers results and creates an Arizona for everyone. I have fulfilled my responsibility of nominating eminently qualified directors who meet the requirements of law. It is clear that this committee has taken upon itself to impose some other, impossible standard—or perhaps no standard at all beyond the whims of Senator Hoffman—for evaluating nominees. This is not the lawful role of the Senate, and is not a process in which I or my nominees will continue to participate.

To ensure that I am upholding my constitutional and statutory duties to effectively oversee and manage State government, you have left me no choice but to withdraw all director nominations that remain pending before the Senate and pursue other lawful avenues of ensuring State government can continue to function for Arizonans.

Should the Senate return to the regular order of confirming nominees as contemplated by law, or if I am able to find qualified candidates who might satisfy the shifting, amorphous, and partisan standard for confirmation that the Senate appears to have adopted, I will resume sending nominations for the Senate's review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katie Hobbs', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Katie Hobbs
Governor
State of Arizona

cc:

Chad Campbell, Chief of Staff, Office of Governor Katie Hobbs, ccampbell@az.gov

Bo Dul, General Counsel, Office of Governor Katie Hobbs, bdul@az.gov

Ben Henderson, Director of Operations, Office of Governor Katie Hobbs, bhenderson@az.gov

Elizabeth Thorson, Arizona Department of Administration, peters.karen@azdeq.gov
Angie Rodgers, Arizona Department of Economic Security, angierodgers@azdes.gov
Karen Peters, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, peters.karen@azdeq.gov
Carmen Heredia, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System, carmen.heredia@azahcccs.gov
David Lujan, Arizona Department of Child Safety, david.Lujan@azdcs.gov
Jackie Johnson, Arizona Department of Gaming, jjohnson@azgaming.gov
Joan Serviss, Arizona Department of Housing, joan.serviss@azhousing.gov
Barbara Richardson, Arizona Department of Insurance and Financial Institutions, barbara.richardson@difi.az.gov
Lt. Col Dana Allmond, Arizona Department of Veterans Services, dallmond@azdvs.gov
Alec Esteban Thomson, Arizona State Lottery, athomson@azlottery.gov
Cynthia Zwick, Residential Utility Consumer Office, cswick@azruco.gov
Lisa Urias, Arizona Office of Tourism, lurias@tourism.az.gov
Robyn Sahid, Arizona State Land Department, rsahid@azland.gov

WITHDRAWAL OF NOMINATIONS

I, Katie Hobbs, Governor of the State of Arizona, hereby withdraw the following nominations:

1. Lt. Col. Dana Allmond, for Director of the Arizona Department of Veterans Services
2. Alec Esteban Thomson, for Executive Director of the Arizona State Lottery Commission
3. Elizabeth Thorson, for Director of the Arizona Department of Administration
4. Angie Rodgers, for Director of the Arizona Department of Economic Security
5. Karen Peters, for Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
6. Carmen Heredia, for Director of the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System
7. David Lujan, for Director of the Arizona Department of Child Safety
8. Jackie Johnson, for Director of the Arizona Department of Gaming
9. Joan Serviss, for Director of the Arizona Department of Housing
10. Barbara Richardson, for Director of the Arizona Department of Insurance and Financial Institutions
11. Cynthia Zwick, for Director of the Residential Utility Consumer Office
12. Lisa Urias, for Director of the Arizona Office of Tourism
13. Robyn Sahid, for Commissioner of the Arizona State Land Department



IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Arizona done at the Capitol in the City of Phoenix, this 25th day of September in the year Two Thousand Twenty Three.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "KH", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

GOVERNOR

Attest:

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to be "Adam Paul Farkas", written in a stylized, cursive manner.

Secretary of State