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DISTRICT 1



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HEALTH & WELFARE,  
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HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
JUDICIARY,  
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## Arizona House of Representatives Phoenix, Arizona 85007

September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### **RE: Statement of Support for Designating the Upper Verde a Wild and Scenic River.**

As a long-time resident and member of the Arizona State House of Representatives for Legislative District 1, it is with great enthusiasm that I write this statement of support for the Upper Verde River to receive the Wild and Scenic River designation.

The well-documented benefits of the Upper Verde River include wildlife, scenery, recreation, cultural and historic values as well as quality of life. Downriver users such as farmers, ranchers, cities, and indigenous communities would benefit from this destination as well. What we have learned from other states with rivers blessed with this designation is the wide range of recreational opportunities with a little of something for everyone of which for the Verde River would include hunting, fishing, hiking, swimming, birding, paddling, horseback riding, and of course the scenic Verde Canyon Railroad which is downriver in Clarkdale, AZ.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act protects rivers by preventing harmful development projects, ensuring water quality, and protecting their outstanding values, including scenery, culture, wildlife, and recreation. The Upper Verde River is a perfect fit for this designation!

I ran for this office as a candidate who cares for our district and the state of Arizona. Important to me is maintaining respect for our rich history and love of our natural resources. I am dedicated to protecting and strengthening the communities we serve. As such, it is an honor to be part of the supporting parties in this very important endeavor to designate the Upper Verde as a Wild and Scenic River!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Selina Bliss".

Rep. Selina Bliss  
Legislative District 1