

July 22, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

As Senior Vice President of Rural Economic Development at the Arizona Commerce Authority, I'm proud to express my support for the Potash Arizona (PA) project located in Apache County, Arizona. The project has the potential to lead to significant job creation for rural Arizona while contributing important tax benefits to the state and local communities.

Potash is the primary source of potassium in agricultural fertilizers. Roughly 95% of U.S. potash is imported from abroad, creating serious supply chain vulnerabilities for the agriculture community and downstream consumers. In accordance with President Trump's 2017 Executive Order 13817 entitled "A Federal Strategy to Ensure Secure & Reliable Supplies of Critical Minerals," the U.S. Department of Interior released a list of 35 minerals deemed critical to the country's economy and security, with potash included in the list.

The Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) is the state's leading economic development organization with a streamlined mission to grow and strengthen Arizona's economy. Our agency is the only statewide economic development agency in Arizona, and we place special emphasis on supporting rural economic growth strategies. The ACA is overseen by a prestigious public-private board of directors, which is chaired by the Arizona Governor.

We've been pleased to work with the principles of PA, who have been diligent in building trust and support for this important enterprise. The project expects to create 300 well-paying jobs for Apache County. In addition, the project poses potential employment and workforce benefits for neighboring indigenous communities.

We intend to continue working closely with PA leadership to advance this significant economic development opportunity for Eastern Arizona. Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at [KeithW@azcommerce.com](mailto:KeithW@azcommerce.com) or at (602) 845-1278.

Sincerely,



Keith Watkins  
Senior Vice President of Rural Economic Development  
Arizona Commerce Authority

