

Congress of the United States
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June 30, 2026

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave.,
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Tom Schultze
Chief of the Forest Service
1400 Independence Ave., SW,
Washington, D.C. 20250

Subject: Request for the U.S. Forest Service to Withhold Approval of the Camino Madre Renewable Power Project

Dear Secretary Rollins and Chief Schultze,

I am writing to respectfully urge the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to oppose—and withhold any approvals, rights-of-way, or authorizations within your jurisdiction for—the proposed Camino Madre Renewable Power Project in Yavapai County.

The current proposal raises significant concerns regarding its impacts on Prescott National Forest lands and the surrounding community. Although power-generating facilities would be placed on private land, major project infrastructure—including access roads, collection lines, and related connections—would rely on Forest Service land, creating potential long-term effects on habitat, watersheds, recreational access, and the character of the Yavapai Ranch landscape.

By producing up to 450 MW of wind and solar generation and 300 MW of battery storage, the project introduces the risk of substantial visual disturbance, noise, dust, traffic, and ecological disruption. Construction activities involving several hundred workers may further strain environmental resources and local infrastructure. These impacts merit careful evaluation and appear inconsistent with long-established management priorities for Prescott National Forest.

In addition, the federal government has recently emphasized the need for careful evaluation of energy projects and land-use decisions. The July 2025 presidential action Ending Market-Distorting Subsidies for Unreliable Foreign-Controlled Energy Sources reiterates the importance of ensuring that large-scale energy developments align with national interests and responsible land stewardship.¹ Similarly, The USDA's August 2025 announcement, "Secretary Rollins Blocks Taxpayer Dollars for Solar Panels on Prime Farmland," highlights the Department's focus on ensuring that federal resources and approvals support responsible siting practices and protect valuable public and private lands. This reinforces the need for a thorough assessment of whether large-scale energy projects

¹ [Ending Market Distorting Subsidies for Unreliable, Foreign-Controlled Energy Sources – The White House](#)

that rely on federal land access align with conservation, land-management, and community priorities.²

Given these concerns, I respectfully request that USFS use its full authority under NEPA and other applicable regulations to withhold any approvals required for the Camino Madre project to proceed.

At a minimum, I ask the agency to conduct a comprehensive and detailed environmental review that fully evaluates alternatives, cumulative impacts, and long-term consequences for Forest Service lands and nearby communities.

Thank you for your continued stewardship of our public lands and for considering this request. I appreciate the opportunity to provide input and look forward to ongoing public engagement should this proposal advance.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eli Crane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eli" and last name "Crane" clearly distinguishable.

Eli Crane
Member of Congress

² [Secretary Rollins Blocks Taxpayer Dollars for Solar Panels on Prime Farmland | USDA](#)