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ARIZONA SENATORS APPLAUD \$600 MILLION IN ADDITIONAL FUNDING, BUT DEMAND DEMOCRATS DO MORE TO SECURE SOUTHWEST BORDER

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Jon Kyl (R-AZ) today released the following statement regarding the passage of the \$600 million border security funding bill:

“After needless political maneuvering Senator Reid reconvened the Senate today to once again pass a \$600 million border security funding bill. This wouldn’t have been necessary if the House had simply passed the original Senate bill, but House Democrats chose to play politics and risk delaying funding that is desperately needed in Arizona and other border states.

“The bill that just passed is a start and we are pleased that it included some of the pieces of our McCain-Kyl 10-point border security plan, including additional unmanned aerial systems and forward operating bases as well as an increase in Border Patrol agents. We have repeatedly called for these additional resources for the border and we’re glad that the Democrats may have finally started to listen.

“However, there are key elements still in need of funding that are critical to our border security. The bill that passed today does not include nearly enough funding for the other priorities we have been fighting for, including, for example, funding to fully implement Operation Streamline in the Tucson Border Patrol Sector, funding to dramatically increase the number of Customs inspectors at ports of entry in both the Tucson and Yuma areas, and funding to double the capacity of the Law Enforcement Support Center (LESC), which provides information about immigration status to federal, state, and local law enforcement officials. Unfortunately, Democrats have repeatedly refused our attempts to boost border security for these and other programs.

“We will keep up the fight, and hope that when Congress returns in September Democrats will end the political gamesmanship and join our effort to do more for states like Arizona. That includes providing the funding to complete implementation of the McCain-Kyl 10-point plan for border security.”