



CITY OF FLAGSTAFF

FLAGSTAFF CITY COUNCIL

211 West Aspen Avenue, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001

Main Line: 928-213-2000

Website: <https://www.flagstaff.az.gov>

May 3, 2022

Governor Doug Ducey
State of Arizona
1700 W Washington St
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Ducey,

The Flagstaff City Council endorses Lowell Observatory's request for ARPA support requested via SB1029 and approved by the Arizona Senate. Opening in 2024, the Astronomy Discovery Center will generate over \$74 million per year in Arizona tourism revenue from the 250,000 visitors it will attract each year.

In addition to being a global tourist destination with its immersive theater and open-to-the-sky Dark Sky Planetarium, the Astronomy Discovery Center will provide STEM education for Northern Arizona residents of all ages including students from the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe. The Astronomy Discovery Center will also employ individuals in the Flagstaff community, adding valuable jobs from entry through professional levels.

The Astronomy Discovery Center is currently under construction with \$33.5 million raised. Costs have increased significantly from the original \$37.5 million budget due to construction escalation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We encourage you to approve Lowell Observatory's request for \$19.6 million to complete the project at the highest quality to become the premier public astronomy destination in the world.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Mayor Paul Deasy, on behalf of the Flagstaff City Council