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SOLICITOR GENERAL'S OFFICE

December 20, 2021

The Honorable Scott Harris
Clerk, United States Supreme Court
Office of the Clerk
1 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20543

Re: *John Montenegro Cruz v. State of Arizona*;
U.S. Supreme Court No. 21-846

Dear Mr. Harris:

On November 22, 2021, Petitioner John Montenegro Cruz filed a Petition for Writ of Certiorari in this capital case. The State of Arizona's Response is currently due January 6, 2022. Under this Court's Rules 15.3 and 30.4, the State respectfully requests an extension of 30 days, to and including Monday, February 8, 2022, to file a Brief in Opposition. Undersigned counsel has contacted Neal Kumar Katyal, counsel of record for Petitioner Cruz, and he has indicated that he has no objection to the requested 30-day extension. The extension is necessary due to undersigned counsel's responsibilities as Acting Chief Counsel for the Arizona Attorney General Office's Capital Litigation Section as well as preparing an answering brief in a capital habeas matter, *Hampton v. Shinn*, Ninth Circuit No. 19-99005 and preparing a Brief in Opposition in a related capital case, *Burns et al. v. State of Arizona*, Supreme Court No. 21-847. Additionally, undersigned counsel will be out of the office for several days in late December.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

MARK BRNOVICH
Attorney General

JEFFREY L. SPARKS
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