



Carl Taylor  
District 1

Elizabeth C. Archuleta  
District 2

March 9, 2011

Matt Ryan  
District 3

Mandy Metzger  
District 4

Lena Fowler  
District 5

Representative Andy Tobin  
Arizona House of Representatives  
1700 West Washington  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Representative Tobin:

On behalf of the Coconino County Board of Supervisors and residents in Coconino County, I am writing to express my concerns with a budget being proposed by Senator Andy Biggs, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. I am extremely concerned that while this budget is being touted as fiscally conservative, it is not. The Biggs proposed budget will only shift the burden onto local governments and to local taxpayers.

In many of our most rural areas in the state, counties are the main provider of services. Counties plow roads during heavy snow, provide court and election services to remote areas and ensure the public safety of their residents. With a decrease in federal and state revenues, a cap on our property and sales tax and the impact of the recession, we are still providing these services with less.

In Coconino County, we have been forced into a very different role in the last year. The county has the job of protecting more than 1,500 properties from major flooding. The Schultz Fire occurred in June of last year and burned more than 15,000 acres. When the fire was contained, the individuals who lived at the base of the mountain were faced with the reality that their community was in danger of flooding. Eight major flood events have occurred since the Schultz Fire was contained with more flooding predicted during periods of heavy rain. The flooding claimed the life of a young girl.

Coconino County has spent \$3.5 million on the Schultz Fire Flood emergency. While some of these costs have been reimbursed, the County's financial stability is at risk. With the monsoon season months away, Coconino County is concerned that another flooding event could bankrupt the county.

The shift in state costs to counties would further compound our fiscal situation in Coconino County. The proposed budget by Senator Biggs could add an additional \$150 million burden to counties. To date, counties across the state have received more than \$190 million in impacts, including a \$77 million impact of ongoing costs in the fiscal year 11 budget. The proposed impacts, including the

Page 2

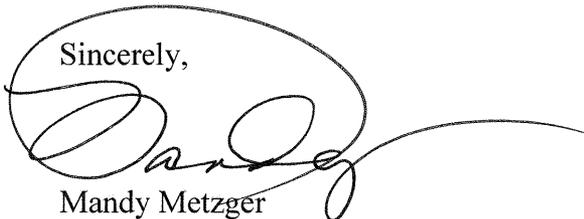
Representative Andy Tobin

shift of state prisoners to county jails, the shift of county VLT funds to pay for the Arizona Department of Motor Vehicles and an increase in payments from counties to the Arizona Long-Term Cost Containment System, or ALTCS, will have a devastating impact on our county and counties across the state. The Biggs' budget proposal does not reduce any expenditures, nor does it increase any revenues, it merely transfers the deficit to local government where the same deficit burden exists for the taxpayers, just at a different level of government.

I ask for your continued assistance and cooperation on any ongoing budget proposals. Any impacts to the county will have a major impact on county services to residents and a shift of the tax burden on local taxpayers. This is the absolute wrong approach.

We know how difficult your job is and we appreciate your service during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mandy Metzger", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mandy Metzger  
Chair, Coconino County Board of Supervisors