



STATE OF ARIZONA

JANICE K. BREWER
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

March 5, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20050

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your recent visit to the great state of Arizona. It was my distinct honor to meet you during your travels here. On behalf of the citizens of the Grand Canyon state, please allow me to express our sincere appreciation for your attention to our fiscal crisis, one of the most severe in the nation, and for your care and concern for those here who are suffering most.

I am writing to you today in response to requirements set forth in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

I took over as Governor just six weeks ago to lead a state that has been one of the hardest hit by this recession. Exacerbated by faulty revenues and years of overspending, our state budget deficit now stands at a staggering thirty percent.

Consequently, I am firmly committed to resolving our state budget deficit truthfully, legitimately---and sustainably. Within days of taking over as Governor, I enacted the most significant budget cuts in our state's history as a critical first step to restoring solvency.

Just yesterday, I delivered an address to the Arizona Legislature which outlined a five-point recovery plan that will place our state on the road to long-term prosperity. That program calls both for lower taxes and lower government spending, which in combination, I believe to be the surest way to reinvigorate our state's economy.

Despite the challenges that lie ahead, I am honored and humbled to serve at this critical time. My top priority as Governor is to build a better Arizona by continuing the enduring legacy of our state's legendary leaders, heroes such as Barry Goldwater, Carl Hayden, Bob Stump, Mo Udall and John Rhodes. Those leaders didn't just believe in providing for the needs of today, but in building foundations for the wealth and promise of tomorrow.

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To help us carry out their remarkable vision, even in spite of the difficult times now facing our state, I am dedicating my gubernatorial service to promoting economic vitality, with the immediate goal of spurring sustainable economic growth and job creation.

I believe it is imperative that we create opportunities that allow individuals the freedom to flourish while reducing their dependency on government services for their livelihood if we are to prevent saddling future generations with insurmountable debt and debilitating taxation.

Accordingly, I must share with you my concerns that the stimulus funds offered in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 further exacerbate our state's long-term fiscal woes. While temporarily useful, they extend programs that have accelerated the growth of government spending to unprecedented and unsustainable levels that neither our state nor our great nation can afford.

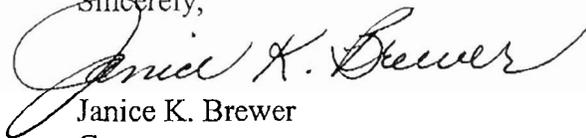
For the health of our state in the long run, I will work to end such practices here in Arizona and urge you to encourage similar restraint at the federal level to protect the long-term economic health of these United States.

Despite my reservations, however, to forgo these funds at this time would be a disservice to Arizona taxpayers who have remitted their federal taxes in good faith and have seen many of those hard earned dollars expended for the benefit of residents of other states. Our citizens need their fair share of those funds returned home to provide for their families during these hours of our greatest need.

With that in mind, please allow this letter to serve as my certification pursuant to Section 1607 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. With this letter, I attest on behalf of the people of the State of Arizona that we will request and use funds provided by the Act and that such funds will be used to create jobs and promote economic growth in a manner that is in the best interest of the taxpayers of Arizona.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to our country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janice K. Brewer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Janice K. Brewer
Governor