



STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KATIE HOBBS
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

May 2, 2025

The Honorable Steve Montenegro
Speaker of the House
Arizona House of Representatives
1700 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: House Bills 2203 and 2572

Speaker Montenegro,

Today, I vetoed the following bills:

- HB 2203 historical water use; subsequent AMA
- HB 2572 subsequent AMAs; groundwater rights; adequacy

Yet again, I am disappointed that neither of these bills would move toward solving the water policy challenges that Arizona residents and communities are facing today. To see more effort misspent on pointless bills that would only weaken groundwater protections is a continued affront to rural Arizonans who have asked their legislature for years to address rural groundwater challenges.

I said in my State of the State: bills that are just political cover for the Legislature's inaction on water security will meet my veto pen.

Since day one of my administration, I have backed rural groundwater reform legislation with strong bipartisan support from across rural Arizona. We are currently negotiating an alternative framework for rural groundwater management, and I will not entertain any rural groundwater legislation that is outside the context of those negotiations. My administration waits for you at the negotiating table, ready to find compromise and solve this problem. I hope that 2025 will be the year where Arizonans finally see good faith negotiations from their Legislature on rural groundwater protections.

Sincerely,

Katie Hobbs
Governor
State of Arizona

cc:

The Honorable Warren Petersen

The Honorable Gail Griffin

The Honorable Adrian Fontes