



STATE OF ARIZONA

JANICE K. BREWER
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

April 15, 2011

The Honorable Kirk Adams
Speaker, Arizona House of Representatives
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: HB 2338 (special districts; secondary levy limits)

Dear Speaker Adams,

Today, I vetoed House Bill 2338, "special districts; secondary levy limits." The bill establishes property tax levy limits for county jail and juvenile, library, and public health districts.

While these are worthy services, I am concerned about the rapid growth of special districts and the aggregate impact on taxpayers and future business investment.

However, mandating restrictions will affect counties inequitably in their efforts to respond to community needs. Rural counties, particularly those with low, existing levies may be penalized with the statewide cap approach in the language of this bill.

I believe that a system of limits could be put in place, while also taking into account the varying circumstances around the state. Maricopa County, for instance, has voluntarily capped special district levies for almost six years. This issue remains subject to dispute between the special district boards and taxpayers. I encourage the parties to work together to craft reasonable safeguards against excessive taxation between now and the next legislative session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janice K. Brewer".

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

cc: The Honorable Russell Pearce
The Honorable Justin Olson