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June 11, 2014

The Honorable Ramon Valadez
Chairman, Pima County Board of Supervisors
130 West Congress, 11th Floor
Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Chairman Valadez:

I write to you to ask your serious reconsideration of the increase in primary property tax rate proposed in the County Administrators budget. An increase of 27.87 cents, raising the rate from \$3.6665 to \$3.9452 per \$100 of assessed value sends the wrong message to Pima County property owners and to prospective businesses looking to locate in our county.

As you already are aware, the tentative budget also includes proposed increases of:

- 6.89 cents for Certificates of Participation
- 3.55 cents for the Sheriff's Department
- 2.48 cents for Indigent Criminal Defense
- 3.00 cents for the Stadium District
- 8.37 cents for Information Technology
- 1.75 cents for Facilities Management
- 0.34 cents for Wildcat Dump Enforcement
- 6.89 cents for Road Repair

It is our understanding that the above increases, along with the primary property tax rate increase, would result in a whopping **16.7% increase in taxes** for Pima County property owners, resulting in an estimated \$44,385,285 in new tax revenue. This is money that will not be spent locally by consumers buying goods and services and growing the sales tax base, but rather it will be an injection into government.

While I recognize the two-year lag in revenues affecting Pima County, a 16.7% increase will not help Pima County's economic recovery. I encourage you and the rest of the Board of Supervisors to reconsider these proposed increases and instead re-evaluate the expenses within the proposed budget.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Michael V. Varney", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Michael V. Varney
President & CEO

Cc: Pima County, Board of Supervisors
Chuck Huckelberry, County Administrator
Martin Willet, Chief Deputy County Administrator