



RICHARD ELÍAS
PIMA COUNTY SUPERVISOR
DISTRICT 5

PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 18, 2016

TO: Robin Brigode, Clerk of the Board

FROM: Richard Elías, District Five Supervisor 

REGARDING: Item for distribution

Please distribute the attached letter, associated with Item 6 on the November 22, 2016 Agenda Addendum, to my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors and to the County Administrator.

Thank you

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

November 18, 2016

Supervisor Richard Elías
Pima County, Arizona District 5
130 W. Congress St. 11th Fl.
Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Supervisor Elías,

As a constituent of yours, I am writing to express reservations about the pending Monsanto incentive package coming before the Pima County Board of Supervisors in the near future. I am concerned about the limits of providing tax payer funded incentives to lure companies, especially those with questionable corporate records at the potential expense of existing businesses tax burdens in our community. If our tax dollars are used to lure potential employers into our community, we should seek out those with high quality workplace standards and high salary levels and benefit packages and economic returns to local governments on an annual basis, not some distant time in the future.

Monsanto's legacy of toxic environmental impacts, heavy handed approaches to farmers' reuse of seeds, and 80 million dollars in SEC fines for this year alone raise serious concerns. We should not be providing taxpayer dollars to subsidize a corporation with such serious ethical and environmental transgressions.

I applaud recent efforts like those to bring well-paying manufacturing jobs from Caterpillar Corporation, which have long term economic benefits to our community and for individual job seekers. But in Monsanto's case, very little information is publicly known about what has been offered and what potential benefits justify those incentives. I am deeply concerned about the potential loss of revenue for the categorical taxing districts like flood control, and libraries.

The board should move cautiously in its review and potential support of this incentive package for Monsanto. There is a plethora of companies that would provide more opportunities with fewer pitfalls for our community, and still more right here in Pima County that would benefit tremendously from incentives to help them expand their operations. These companies have established track records of being good neighbors, hiring locally, and are committed to their long-term presence in our community.

There are many other options for the board to explore that will benefit all employers in Pima County versus providing special treatment for just one international corporation whose annual profits far exceed any need for local contributions from Pima County taxpayers. Monsanto is not



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a struggling company trying to get off the ground; it could just as easily move operations again once the incentives have run their course as we have seen in Pima County's past. Monsanto has reportedly already purchased the land and in all likelihood would be moving forward whether Pima county granted this special tax treatment or not.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raúl M. Grijalva".

Raúl M. Grijalva