



STATE OF ARIZONA

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GOVERNOR

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May 9, 2005

The Honorable Jim Weiers
Speaker of the House
Arizona House of Representatives
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: House Bill 2461: outdoor advertising; regulation

Dear Speaker Weiers:

Today I vetoed House Bill 2461, relating to outdoor advertising regulation.

This bill, which would have allowed illuminated and flashing signs along Arizona Department of Transportation rights of way, is opposed by neighborhood associations across Arizona, along with our major observatories. These opponents argue that the light from such advertising poses a threat to the dark and starry night skies that have made Arizona a world-renowned hub of astronomical research.

Such research has not only scientific, but economic value. Among other things, as the *Arizona Republic* recently reported, our dark skies have attracted more than \$1 billion in astronomical investments, including \$150 million recently spent by an international consortium to build state-of-the-art telescopes and an \$84 million astronomy research grant awarded last year to the University of Arizona. We should be doing more to enhance this research, and reap these scientific and economic rewards.

For these and other reasons, House Bill 2461 should not become law.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet Napolitano", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Janet Napolitano
Governor

JN:TN/jm

cc: The Honorable Ken Bennett
The Honorable Pamela Gorman