STATE OF ARIZONA

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June 6, 2006

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

Re: House Bill 2675: slum clearance

Dear Speaker Weiers:

Today I vetoed House Bill 2675, which would have terminated all existing slum clearance and redevelopment areas and inappropriately restricted the ability of cities to deal with slums and urban blight.

Current Arizona law generally protects the legitimate rights of property owners while still enabling cities and neighborhoods to reduce urban blight, crime and slum conditions. Without such a balance, slum areas can go unabated and become epicenters of criminal and gang activity. While I oppose the use of eminent domain power to benefit private economic interests, this bill goes too far in restricting a city's ability to deal with slums and gangs. It removes local control, sets up a needlessly complex bureaucratic process for redevelopment efforts, and creates inappropriate impediments to communities looking to make their neighborhoods safe and productive.

This bill was subject to much negotiation, but was adopted before the completion of a consensus agreement among the major stakeholders in this issue. To the extent that any change in current law is deemed necessary, I would urge the proponents of this legislation to return in good faith to the bargaining table and negotiate a more workable bill for next session that does not have so many unintended consequences.

For these and other reasons, I have vetoed House Bill 2675.

Yours very truly,

Janet Napolitano
Governor

JN:TN/jm

cc: The Honorable Ken Bennett
The Honorable Chuck Gray