



State of Arizona

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Governor Jan Brewer Proposes Reforms to Re-Open Arizona Rest Areas

PHOENIX – In a letter to U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood, Governor Jan Brewer today has asked that the federal government lift its burdensome regulations that prohibit the privatization or commercialization of Arizona rest areas. With state transportation funding reduced by 25% due to budget cuts, and streamlining throughout all of state government, these federal limitations prevent states from encouraging tourism and ensuring public safety on the highways.

“Since Arizona statutes already provide all the authority necessary for implementation, the only thing standing in the way are federal roadblocks,” said Governor Brewer. “Rescinding the federal restriction on commercialization activities or the privatization of rest stops would provide all states with more options to re-open rest areas.”

Some U.S. states already have the ability to open or continue privatized rest areas, as the federal government grandfathered rights to interstate freeways built before 1956. None of Arizona’s rest areas qualify for this necessary flexibility.

Additionally, the Governor has ordered that the Arizona Department of Transportation identify any federal funding options, continue to explore an “Adopt a Rest Stop” program, and investigate additional use of inmate labor to reduce some maintenance costs. The Arizona Department of Transportation has the authority in Arizona statutes and is prepared to enter into agreements with local governments or civic organizations to re-open rest areas. To date, no local funding has been identified.

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