

September 27, 2010

The Honorable Janice K. Brewer  
Governor  
1700 West Washington Street  
Phoenix AZ 85007-2888  
**SENT BY MAIL & FACSIMILE: (602) 542-7601**

Dear Governor Brewer:

The Arizona Petroleum Marketers Association (APMA) would like to weigh in on Arizona's recent request to change federal law so that the state can offer commercial services at highway rest areas located on the interstate right of way.

As a statewide trade association representing petroleum marketers, we would encourage your administration to reconsider this effort. Allowing state government to compete with existing private businesses located at interstate exits would create unfair competition in the marketplace and threaten existing small businesses in Arizona—businesses which are already suffering from the current economy and overall lower demand for petroleum products. There are around 1,200 businesses located along Arizona's highways employing over 31,000 people.

Over 80% of all petroleum retail facilities are independently owned in Arizona—these are small businesses which are not owned by the companies whose petroleum products they may offer for sale. These small businesses have made investments which will be threatened if the state government can now begin to engage in commercial activity at the highway rest areas. These existing small businesses at highway exits will not be able to compete against a rest area with similar commercial offerings situated directly on the right of way.

APMA's membership understands the very serious challenges facing the state. The closure of Arizona's rest stops has been difficult for all. APMA would like to seriously explore alternative options to the proposed commercialization with ADOT and your office. Surely there is an innovative way to engage the businesses which are currently operating along the interstates. We agree that the safety of Arizona's motorists is of primary concern, and we believe that the existing businesses along the highways can help provide a safe place for those motorists to stop and rest.

On behalf of APMA's membership we appreciate your dedication and efforts in restoring Arizona during these trying times and offer our sincere desire to assist in developing an alternative strategy to the proposed commercialization of rest stops.

Sincerely,

Andrea Martincic  
Executive Director

Cc: Mr. John Halikowksi, Director of ADOT