

January 6, 2022

The Honorable Doug Ducey
Governor
State of Arizona
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Governor Ducey:

We want to thank you for your steady leadership during these unprecedented times. Arizona's economy has rebounded more quickly than most, and our state is poised to be among the nation's job-growth leaders in the coming years.

Yet, this hopeful forecast is not guaranteed. The pandemic has shined a light on labor shortage and workforce development crises that have emerged as leading threats facing Arizona employers. Too many businesses are constrained from expanding – or even operating at regular capacity – due to a lack of ready workers. This can and should be a primary focus of state attention.

Just as Arizona's public universities have played an outsized role in helping our state navigate the pandemic, these institutions now are equally vital in furthering our economic recovery. **We write to ask that you support the Arizona Board of Regents' FY 2023 state budget proposal.** This plan will provide the funds necessary to expand Arizona's workforce capacity; spur research and development, with an emphasis on bringing emerging technologies to market; and ensure our universities remain engines of economic expansion and opportunity.

ABOR's New Economy Initiative is the roadmap for this effort. It's no blank check; NEI builds on the existing program strengths at each institution, with an emphasis on high-growth sectors. That includes engineering and the sciences at ASU; health care and teaching at NAU; and agriculture, health sciences and veterinary medicine at UArizona.

Further, to meet statewide pipeline needs, the university and community college Yuma Expansion partnership is key for rural availability and accessibility.

The focus is on tangible results and getting the greatest return on the taxpayers' dollar.

During the pandemic, you effectively marshalled university resources and ingenuity to research the virus, reach underserved communities, develop new COVID-19 testing protocols, and much more. Now, let's turn these same institutions loose to tackle Arizona's most pressing challenges of the New Economy to meet the needs of our growing state with a skilled and ready workforce. Employers and Arizonans in every corner of our state will benefit.

We thank you for your consideration – and for your continued service, support and partnership on behalf of Arizona employers and business leaders.

Respectfully,

Business and Community Leaders of Arizona
(Signed below)

Steve Zylstra
President & CEO
Arizona Technology Council

Chris Camacho
President & CEO
Greater Phoenix Economic
Council

Daniel Seiden
President & CEO
Arizona Chamber of
Commerce and Industry

Todd Sanders
President & CEO
Greater Phoenix Chamber

Rob Elias
President & CEO
Tucson Hispanic Chamber of
Commerce

Julie Pastrick
President & CEO
Greater Flagstaff Chamber
of Commerce

Julie Engel
President & CEO
Greater Yuma Economic
Development Corporation

Don Henninger
Executive Director
Scottsdale Coalition of
Today & Tomorrow

T. Paul Thomas
CEO
Northern Arizona Leadership
Alliance

Neil Giuliano
President & CEO
Greater Phoenix
Leadership

Robert W. Heidt Jr.
President & CEO
Glendale Chamber of Commerce

Amanda Wiggins
President & CEO
Marana Chamber of Commerce

Terri Kimble
President & CEO
Chandler Chamber of Commerce

Andy Hayes
CEO & Executive Director
Ahwatukee Foothills Chamber
of Commerce

Mark Stanton
President & CEO
Scottsdale Area
Chamber of Commerce

Sally Harrison
President & CEO
Mesa Chamber of
Commerce

Michael Guymon
Interim President & CEO
Tucson Metro Chamber

Farhad Moghimi
Executive Director
Pima Association of Governments

Chris Clark, IOM
President & CEO
Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce

Devney Preuss
President & CEO
Downtown Phoenix Inc.

Anne Gill, IOM
Interim President & CEO
Tempe Chamber of Commerce

Gail Jackson
President & CEO
Economic Collaborative of
Northern Arizona

Joe Snell
President & CEO
Sun Corridor Inc.

Ted Maxwell
President & CEO
Southern Arizona Leadership
Council

Sarah Watts
President & CEO
Gilbert Chamber of Commerce

John Lewis
President & CEO
East Valley Partnership

Carrie Kelly
Executive Director
Arizona Association for Economic
Development