STATE OF ARIZONA

JANET NAPOLITANO
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1700 WEST WASHINGTON STREET, PHOENIX, AZ 85007

MAIN PHONE: 602-542-4331
FACSIMILE: 602-542-7601

April 17, 2006

The Honorable Ken Bennett
President
Arizona State Senate
1700 West Washington Street
Senate Office Building
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

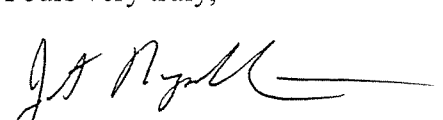
Re: Senate Bill 1425: emergency confiscation of firearms; prohibition

Dear President Bennett:

I am a strong supporter of the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution and firmly believe in the rights of all Americans to bear arms. Nevertheless, today I vetoed Senate Bill 1425, which would have prohibited the imposition of ***any*** restrictions on the possession, transfer, sale, transport, carrying, storage, display or use of firearms or ammunition during a state of emergency declared by the governor.

Let me be clear: it is not my intent or goal ever to take away a law abiding person's firearm during a state of emergency. But the proposed addition of the new subsection (J) to A.R.S. § 26-303 simply goes too far. It addresses a problem that does not and never has existed in Arizona. Indeed, the bill is predicated on an incident that occurred in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Subsection (J) is much broader than the Katrina incident and would have serious consequences in Arizona. For example, it would prohibit the governor or the National Guard adjutant general from ordering the movement of a store of ammunition away from the path of a forest fire. As such, this bill as drafted is not in the best interest of Arizonans -- including lawful gun owners.

Yours very truly,



Janet Napolitano
Governor

JN:TN/jm

cc: The Honorable Jim Weiers
The Honorable Dean Martin