STATE OF ARIZONA

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April 16, 2007

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

Re: HB 2369: temporary signage; preemption; abatement

Dear Speaker Weiers:

Today I vetoed House Bill 2369, which would have forced municipalities to have regulations or ordinances allowing sign walkers, and controlled the fee that municipalities could impose on sign walker permits.

I appreciate the problem that the sponsor of this bill is trying to address. Free speech is important, and government at any level must tread carefully when enacting time, place, or manner restrictions on even commercial expression. This bill, however, is overly broad and would force every municipality in the state to allow at least ten sign walkers, regardless of the size of the city, the configuration of its streets, or the traffic flow patterns within the community.

Depending on the size and configuration of a city's streets, sign walkers can pose safety hazards by distracting or obstructing the view of motorists and pedestrians. Municipal leaders, who are most familiar with their community's roads and traffic accident history, must retain the regulatory flexibility to ensure the safety of their residents.

This issue is not appropriate for a statewide mandate. For these and other reasons, I have vetoed House Bill 2369.

Yours very truly,

Janet Napolitano
Governor

JN:TAN/jm

cc: The Honorable Tim Bee
The Honorable Bob Robson