



STATE OF ARIZONA

JANICE K. BREWER
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

April 29, 2011

The Honorable Ken Bennett
Secretary of State
1700 W. Washington, 7th Floor
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: House Bill 2230 (911 monument modification)

Dear Secretary Bennett:

Today I vetoed House Bill 2230. This bill sought to require the Arizona Department of Administration to remove 11 phrases from the state monument that commemorates the events and aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on our country.

That state monument, commonly known as the 9/11 Memorial, was the subject of controversy almost as soon as it was dedicated in 2006. So, public hearings were held. Lawmakers debated possible changes. Commissions devoted to the Governmental Mall and 9/11 Memorial itself met repeatedly. Finally – after an exhaustive, two-year process – a series of privately-funded memorial revisions were completed in order to end this controversy. In recent days, I have heard concerns from some of the Arizona families directly affected by the 9/11 attacks and their aftermath. For their sake, I am sorry this issue has reared its head once more.

The sponsor of this legislation had good intentions, but I am concerned about the unintended consequences that would have resulted from this bill. For example, the removal of Balbir Singh Sodhi's name from the 9/11 Memorial would have been a serious mistake with hurtful ramifications for the Sodhi family and the entire Sikh community in Arizona.

Current law clearly designates the Legislative Governmental Mall Commission as the legal authority regarding the alteration or modification of existing monuments at Wesley Bolin Plaza. Further alterations to the 9/11 Memorial or any other state monument should be vetted through this Commission.

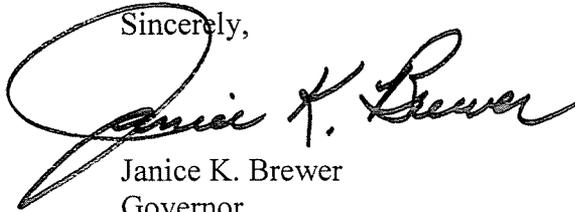
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The 9/11 attacks remain a raw nerve in Arizona and across the country. We may never arrive at a time when all Arizonans view the 9/11 Memorial for the healing experience that was intended. But, hopefully, we as Americans can agree to keep the tragic events of 9/11 in our thoughts and the families affected in our hearts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janice K. Brewer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "B".

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

cc: The Honorable Russell Pearce
The Honorable Andy Tobin
The Honorable John Kavanagh
Senate Secretary
Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
Arizona News Service