



STATE OF ARIZONA

JANICE K. BREWER
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

April 19, 2012

The Honorable Andy Tobin
Speaker of the House
Arizona House of Representatives
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: House Bill 2495 (counties; purchases; local dealers)

Dear Speaker Tobin,

Today, I vetoed House Bill 2495 (counties; purchases; local dealers). This legislation allows a county purchasing agent to award a contract in excess of \$50,000 to a local dealer in preference to a non-local dealer whose bid is less than five percent lower.

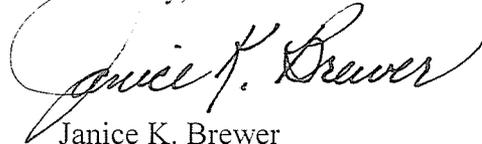
As Governor, and as a former Maricopa County Supervisor, I know firsthand the vital role small and local businesses play in our economy. In fact, the state and counties have procurement statutes in place for small business contracts under \$50,000.

While I admire county efforts to fully incorporate local businesses into their procurement processes, unintended consequences could result if this bill were signed into law. House Bill 2495 does not address the application of local preference through an emergency or sole source procurement. The bill is also silent to the projects where contracts are shared by other jurisdictions or through cooperative procurements. Further, the definition of "local dealer" could cause unfair treatment to those businesses headquartered outside the county line, but still have offices and employees located within the county boundaries. These outstanding issues may place a county board of supervisors in the untenable position of approving higher expenditures on the county taxpayer without clearly defined objectives or benefits.

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I applaud the sponsor's hard work to address small business vitality in local communities. A stakeholder process could provide a more precise approach to achieve the goal of support for local business.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Janice K. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "B".

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

cc: The Honorable Steve Pierce
The Honorable Russ Jones