STATE OF ARIZONA

JANICE K. BREWER
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

April 4, 2012

The Honorable Steve Pierce
President of the Senate
Arizona State Senate
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: Senate Bill 1310 (small claims division; jurisdiction; limits)

Dear President Pierce,

Today I vetoed Senate Bill 1310. The bill increases the jurisdictional limit for civil actions in small claims court from $2,500 to $5,000.

Arizona Revised Statutes § 22-501 provides that the small claims division of the justice courts allows for the "inexpensive, speedy and informal resolution of small claims." The purpose of the small claims court is to resolve claims with a lower value at a reduced cost. Doubling the jurisdictional amount as proposed is contrary to the stated purpose of the small claims division.

I am aware that the concern that prompted this legislation is the transfer of a case in small claims court to justice court. Arizona Revised Statutes § 22-504 allows either party to object to a small claims proceeding and transfer the case to justice court to preserve the right to appeal and there is no monetary threshold a party must meet to transfer the case. This legislation does not solve the stated concern and is contrary to the purpose of the small claims division. These concerns are among the primary reasons I have vetoed S.B. 1310.

Sincerely,

Janice K. Brewer

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

cc: The Honorable Andy Tobin
The Honorable Frank Antenori

1700 WEST WASHINGTON STREET, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007
602-542-4331 • FAX 602-542-7602