KATIE HOBBS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

April 18, 2025

The Honorable Steve Montenegro
Speaker of the House
Arizona House of Representatives
1700 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: House Bills 2271, 2551, 2573, 2574

Speaker Montenegro,

Today, I vetoed the following bills:

- HB 2271 supply and demand; assessment; groundwater
- HB 2551 grandfathered right; Willcox AMA; extension
- HB 2573 groundwater; plants; wine grapes; non-irrigation
- HB 2574 small land subdivision; requirements

Each of these bills has a connection with groundwater policy in rural Arizona. Yet again, I am disappointed that none of these bills would make a difference in solving the water policy challenges that Arizona residents and communities are facing today.

I said in my State of the State: bills that are just political cover for the Legislature's inaction on water security will meet my veto pen.

Since day one of my administration, I have backed rural groundwater reform legislation with strong bipartisan support from across rural Arizona. We are currently negotiating an alternative framework for rural groundwater management, and I will not entertain any rural groundwater legislation that is outside the context of those negotiations.

My administration waits for you at the negotiating table, ready to find compromise and solve this problem. I hope that 2025 will be the year where Arizonans finally see good faith negotiations from their Legislature on rural groundwater protections.

Sincerely,

Katie Hobbs
Governor
State of Arizona

cc:
The Honorable Warren Petersen
The Honorable Gail Griffin
The Honorable Lupe Diaz
The Honorable Adrian Fontes