



## *County Supervisors Association of Arizona*

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January 19, 2024

Dear Members of the Arizona Legislature,

On behalf of the County Supervisors Association (CSA), we respectfully urge your support for the continuation of the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA).

State leadership in economic development is critical for local communities, particularly those in rural areas, to develop and deploy strategies designed to recruit and retain businesses. As the state's economic development agency, the ACA serves this vital role and is an essential partner in supporting and facilitating economic growth and prosperity across our state.

To support business recruitment, retention and expansion, the ACA partners with local entities to understand the unique local strengths, assets and challenges and provides important guidance, technical assistance, and project support. Very importantly, this partnership is vital to amplifying the voice of rural areas, helping these regions compete to attract capital investment and create new jobs. Since 2011, the ACA reports that their collaboration with rural communities has helped create 25,498 jobs and led to more than \$13 billion in capital expenditures.

Also, the ACA is providing critical state leadership in partnering with local governments and private sector providers to expand our state's broadband infrastructure. To this end, the ACA has helped build local capacity to support deployment, managed grant programs to leverage assets, and is leading the effort to maximize the value of the federal BEAD Grant to Arizonans in underserved and unserved communities. These combined efforts will help deliver more than \$1 billion in infrastructure investment across our state, helping to support public safety, telehealth, education, and business activity.

Continuity of the collaboration between the ACA and local partners remains essential to supporting economic development activities across our state. An absence of this state-level coordination will have a very real and negative consequence on local efforts seeking to improve the economic potential of their communities. Accordingly, CSA strongly encourages your support of reauthorizing the ACA.

Thank you very much for your leadership and for your service to our state. And thank you for considering our perspective.

Sincerely,

Stephen Q. Miller  
President, County Supervisors Association of Arizona  
Supervisor, Pinal County