



Cochise County Board of Supervisors

Public Programs...Personal Service
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RICHARD R. SEARLE
Chairman
District 3

JAMES E. VLAHOVICH
County Administrator

PATRICK G. CALL
Vice-Chairman
District 1

EDWARD T. GILLIGAN
Deputy County Administrator

ANN ENGLISH
Supervisor
District 2

ARLETHE G. RIOS
Clerk of the Board

February 23, 2016

Honorable Gail Griffin
Senate
1700 W. Washington
Room 212
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Senator Griffin,

As you work on the FY2017 state budget, we are writing to urge your leadership in advocating for the elimination of state policies diverting local county resources to fund four state agencies. We understand the need to be cautious with state finances and that not all county impacts may be able to be addressed immediately, but we believe it is very important for the state to begin to take incremental steps toward relieving the counties of burdens that were previously enacted to help the state bridge temporary revenue shortfalls.

Since 2009, Cochise County has been impacted more than \$8,978,874 by state actions intended to alleviate revenue shortfalls in the state general fund. If these shifts continue, they will impact our county by an estimated \$929,965 in FY2017. This includes state mandated payments to the Arizona State Hospital, the Department of Juvenile Corrections, the Department of Revenue, and the diversion of local Highway User Revenue Funds to the Department of Public Safety.

These state policies, along with limited local revenue authority, are directly impacting the ability to perform basic county functions. Absent your assistance, they will continue to burden our taxpayers and divert scarce, local resources that should be utilized in Cochise County to support local public safety, criminal justice, road infrastructure and other core services of county government.

We appreciate your hard work on behalf of your constituents in our county, and we would be grateful for your leadership in advocating for the transition of state obligations off of county resources.

Sincerely,

Patrick G. Call
Chairman

Richard R. Searle
Vice-Chairman

Ann English
Member

Mark Dannels
County Sheriff

Brian McIntyre
County Attorney

Attachments: (Resolution passed by county, and CSA impact sheet)

1415 Melody Lane, Building G
Bisbee, Arizona 85603
520-432-9200
520-432-5016 fax
board@cochise.az.gov