STATE OF ARIZONA

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June 13, 2006

The Honorable Ken Bennett
President
Arizona State Senate
1700 West Washington Street
Senate Office Building
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Senate Bill 1040: school districts; minor boundary changes

Dear President Bennett:

Today I vetoed Senate Bill 1040, which would have enabled school district boundaries to be changed more than once without a majority vote of the district's population.

While I favor some reform in the process of school district boundary drawing to reduce the possibility that a person could live within a short distance of a public school but be unable to attend it, this bill is not the answer. This bill would enable a minority of residents in one school district to become part of another district without the consent of the majority of residents in either district, and regardless of both their proximity to the school they want to attend and how crowded that school may be. People who are dissatisfied with their school districts, but who wish to continue to live where they are, generally should work to improve their own school districts or get voter approval before re-drawing the district's lines.

I am hopeful that the sponsor of this bill will continue to work in good faith with the school boards association to craft more narrowly tailored legislation designed to address the proximity issue.

For these and other reasons I am vetoing Senate Bill 1040.

Yours very truly,

Janet Napolitano
Governor

JN:TN/ps

cc: The Honorable Jim Weiers
The Honorable Jim Waring