



STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KATIE HOBBS
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

April 11, 2023

Representative Toma
Speaker of the House
1700 W Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: HB2442

Speaker Toma,

Today I vetoed HB 2442, which purports to address rural groundwater depletion through the establishment of "temporary non-expansion areas" (TNA). Unfortunately, HB 2442 would do very little to preserve the groundwater supplies that Arizonans rely upon.

Both the petition and designation threshold to create a TNA are higher than the requirements to establish a permanent Irrigation Non-expansion Area, despite providing far less protection to the aquifer. Among other troubling provisions, new irrigation with groundwater is only halted for five years, and the timeframe for grandfathering existing pumping is doubled.

Rural communities deserve meaningful options to protect their water future. HB 2442 falls short of this.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "KH", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Katie Hobbs
Governor
State of Arizona

Cc:

President Petersen

Representative Griffin

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary Fontes