STATE OF ARIZONA

JANET NAPOLITANO
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1700 WEST WASHINGTON STREET, PHOENIX, AZ 85007

MAIN PHONE: 602-542-4331
FACSIMILE: 602-542-7601

April 28, 2008

The Honorable Jim Weiers
Speaker of the House
Arizona House of Representatives
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: House Bill 2807; immigration; local enforcement

Dear Speaker Weiers:

I have vetoed House Bill 2807, which would have mandated that Arizona counties, towns and cities participate in federal immigration law enforcement efforts and would have shifted the cost of training those local law enforcement officers away from the federal government to Arizona's state general fund. This bill is similar to Senate Bill 1306, which I vetoed in May 20, 2005. And for many of the same reasons, I am vetoing House Bill 2807 today.

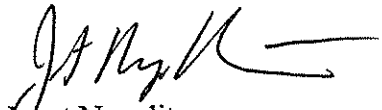
House Bill 2807 is simply an unnecessary, unfunded mandate to law enforcement.

Let us start with the clear understanding that nothing in current law prevents Arizona's sheriffs and police departments from entering into agreements with federal immigration authorities to enforce federal immigration laws, provided they are given proper training. Many already have entered into these agreements on a voluntary basis. A legislative mandate to that effect is unnecessary.

In addition, House Bill 2807 is an unfunded mandate. The real impediment to cross training local law enforcement in federal immigration law enforcement efforts is the federal government's inability to meet the demand for training opportunities. In 2006, Congress added Section 287(g) to the Immigration Reform Act, giving the federal Department of Homeland Security the ability to train local law officers in the enforcement of federal immigration laws. While interest in these cross training programs was high, Congress appropriated only $5.5 million in 2008 to maintain the entire nation-wide program. Demand for training has, predictably, significantly outstripped federal resources. Even now, the Arizona Department of Public Safety alone has a wait list of over 100 officers for cross training. Because House Bill 2807 requires the Arizona general fund to pay the training costs for *all* local law enforcement (not just for the Department of Public Safety) if federal funding is not available, Arizona tax payers would be required to pay an approximately $100 million bill at a time we are facing significant budget shortfalls.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated in my May 20, 2005 veto letter of Senate Bill 1306 and others, I have vetoed House Bill 2807.

Yours very truly,



Janet Napolitano
Governor

JN:LK

cc: The Honorable Timothy S. Bee
The Honorable John B. Nelson

Passed the House March 20, 2008

by the following vote: 56 Ayes,

0 Nays, 4 Not Voting

Speaker of the House

Norman L. Moore

Chief Clerk of the House

Passed the Senate April 21, 2008

by the following vote: 20 Ayes,

9 Nays, 1 Not Voting

President of the Senate

Pro Tempore

Charmin Billington

Secretary of the Senate

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR

This Bill received by the Governor this

22nd day of April, 2008

at 2:40 o'clock P. M.

Jennifer Ybarra

Secretary to the Governor

Approved this _____ day of

_____

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

VETO

_____

Governor of Arizona

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE

This Bill received by the Secretary of State

this 28 day of April, 2008

at 1:35 o'clock P M.

Janice K. Brewer

Secretary of State

H.B. 2807