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COMMITTEES:
Rules, Chairman



Arizona State Senate

April 20, 2020

Dear Regional Transportation Authority Board of Directors:

During the Regional Transportation Authority's (RTA) educational campaign in 2006 for a 20-year regional transportation plan and sales tax initiative, the RTA Board of Directors was crystal clear about its intention to deliver to voters the projects identified in the proposed plan.

The RTA Board signed a pledge to maintain the projects as identified in the plan presented to the voters. The pledge was met with positive support from RTA stakeholders and the community, and the voters in the region ultimately agreed that the RTA can be trusted to deliver by approving the plan with a 3-2 margin.

These same voters were previously contemptuous of trusting the government to use their tax dollars as promised — tens of millions of tax dollars — spent on nonessential programs. With the pledge and clear mandate from voters, the RTA promised to be transparent and accountable to the wishes of the voters.

That promise has since guided every action by the RTA Board and the Pima Association of Governments' Regional Council, which manages the RTA to deliver RTA projects, especially during the 2008 Great Recession and amid other challenges.

As the mandatory, independent 10-year state performance review of the RTA concluded, both PAG and RTA leadership stepped up to the plate with good policies that were financially prudent to honor their promise to voters to deliver projects.

So, kudos to you and your executive team for keeping your word to the voters. With the passage of the 2006 RTA plan, the greater Tucson region put jobs and economic growth as a priority. The success of the RTA has paid off for your communities.

As you enter the 15th year of RTA plan implementation in FY 2020-21, the remaining years of RTA plan implementation will be even more critical for the region to work together and honor the will of the voters, as they begin to decide how to meet the needs of the region for the next 20 years.

By far, your steadfast balanced budgeting policy that focuses on delivery of priority projects and services has served your region well. I encourage you to stay the course to carry forward the fiscally responsible model of your success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Senator Karen Fann". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Karen Fann
PRESIDENT
Arizona State Senate