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Date: 4/8/04 10:55AM
Subject: Thank you for April 7 Hearing re APS Rate Increase Request

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Good morning. I appreciate the opportunity to attend yesterday morning's public comment hearing. I considered speaking, as a school board member, but recognizing that the school districts were well represented, I chose to listen and learn (taking a cue from Ms. Mays). I thought your queries, comments, and concerns were well expressed, especially in terms of energy conservation and the impact of a utilities increase on our beleaguered schools. Reference was made to the difficulties school boards had last year in achieving cost savings while not damaging curriculum and classroom instruction. I could describe in fairly graphic detail just how difficult such deliberations were, and are. I thought that the facts and insights proffered by district spokespersons was particularly telling in terms of what else must be considered for cuts should these increased utility costs visit our schools. I feel confident that you will make an informed and compassionate decision. I own stock in Pinnacle West and wish its subsidiary to do well. But the admonition to "do no harm" is one I keep in mind as I see to my uncompensated service on two government boards. Thank you. Tim

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Timothy J. Blake, Esq.

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