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To: The Honorable Bill Munde
Arizona Corporation Commission

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Arizona Corporation Commission
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From: Jack Hart
9318 Willowbrook Dr., Sun City, AZ 85373
(623) 974-1946

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Having devoted a good deal of my adult life to water issues, I can state with utmost confidence and enthusiasm that the plan of the Sun Cities/Youngtown CAP Task Force for allocation of CAP water to these communities is one of the most innovative and most effective in meeting a pressing need that I have ever seen.

I heartily commend the plan and urge Commission approval following your October 18 hearing.

During a newspaper career in Nebraska and later as natural resources coordinator for Gov. Charles Thone of that state, I had occasion to evaluate a number of plans for the productive and efficient use of a limited water supply. Never did I witness another plan which so ideally makes full use of existing resources at the lowest possible cost.

By making the heart of the plan the storage of Colorado River water in surface storage that will automatically replenish underground supplies, the Task Force has drawn on what I believe is the soundest water conservation concept yet devised.

At the time I was coordinating water programs for Gov. Thone, in the early '80s, a Nebraska congressman, Rep. Douglas Bereuter, sponsored and gained passage of legislation to establish pilot projects across the nation for just such water storage and recharge. I was able to observe the development and operation of several of these pilot projects in Nebraska and surrounding states. I believe one such project was located in southeastern Arizona.

This enterprise demonstrated conclusively that such recharge projects as that contemplated for CAP water in Arizona are highly efficient in storing water (being underground there is virtually no evaporation) and extremely economical in water purification (the natural flow of water through the underground sands and soils providing the same purification system that makes our underground water so appealing).

The Task Force plan has taken this innovative process a step further--by diverting a portion of the CAP allocation directly to the irrigation of golf courses. This not only conserves our existing underground water supply for household use, but introduces outside water to recharge and enhance our existing aquifers beneath the Sun Cities.

Finally, the whole plan has been devised so that (1) an adequate water supply is assured for this area into the indefinite future and (2) it is accomplished at a very reasonable, affordable price for present and future residents of the Sun Cities.

Approval of such a creative and beneficial plan will be an everlasting and extraordinary contribution by the Arizona Corporation Commission and its individual members to the people of this state.