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April 11, 2006

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Jeff Hatch-Miller, Chairman
Arizona Corporation Commission
Utilities Division
1200 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2996

Dear Chairman Hatch-Miller:

The issue of Arizona Public Service's current requests for rate increases seems to have placed the company squarely on the firing line of the Corporation Commission. What I would like to address specifically is the questioning and criticism I am hearing about APS's role in the community, particularly from Commissioners Mundell, and Mayes. I will be blunt: There is no company more committed to this community than APS. In terms of both human commitment and financial support, APS does more than any other company to make this a better place to live. And I was born here, so my perspective on that is pretty valid.

My organization, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), is dedicated to minimizing and countering the ravaging forces of hate and bigotry. Make no mistake, it is leadership from people like Bill Post and, to be sure, Marty Shultz, that makes our work effective. Marty, in fact, is the longstanding Chair of ADL's Regional Society of Fellows, which makes outreach efforts like ADL's A World of Difference® anti-bias education programs possible. Even ADL's Civil Rights Committee feels the impact of APS; APS attorney Janet Mueller Chairs the committee.

I certainly don't need to remind you that ADL is but ONE agency grateful for the commitment and leadership of APS. There are dozens, dealing with the most pressing social issues of the day. Issues such as the increasing numbers of homeless on the streets of our cities, or the unification of our numerous school districts, are but two more in which the efforts to address them not only include individuals from APS, but are led by them.

Respectfully,

Bill Straus
Arizona Regional Director, ADL