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The Town of Prescott Valley



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Office of the Mayor

7501 E. Civic Circle
Prescott Valley
Arizona 86314

2004 JAN 28 P 3:17

January 21, 2004

Marc Spitzer
Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington
Phoenix, Az. 85007

AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCUMENT CONTROL

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Environmental Portfolio Standard
Docket No. RE-00000C-00-0377

Dear Marc,

Fortunately, Prescott Valley is not a direct part of the Forest Restoration debate. Our corporate limits do not extend into the Prescott National Forest, but we are nevertheless impacted in two ways. First, our fire provider, Central Yavapai Fire District's (CYFD) boundaries extend well into unincorporated areas that are in danger of wildfire and our neighbor to the west, Prescott, faces the continued threat of fire. The debate surrounding our forests will continue and one of the issues is what to do with the slash that is created from the thinning.

This renewable resource, tons and tons of them, needs to be dealt with. Right now, the Forest Service waits for the "right" time of the year to burn them. That time is now and smoke fills our air at different times of the winter. When there is no right time, the piles fill the forest floor and add to the potential fire problem during fire season.

I have been aware of Biomass energy production for sometime and know that it can be employed to help with the issues in the Prescott National Forest. I also know that in order to jump start this industry in Arizona, some changes must take place. I understand that the Commission is about to discuss the extension of the Environmental Portfolio Standard (that seeks to have 1.1% of energy production), beyond 2012 and the possibility of adding Biomass energy production to the mix. I encourage you to endorse this and also allow for long term contracts that are greater than 10 years. By doing the above, we can allow for the private sector to be a part of the solution and at the same time be a part of helping protect our communities.

We may have different corporate limits, but our economies are linked and devastating fires in the Prescott National Forest will negatively impact us all. The forest clean up issue doesn't end with cutting trees.

Sincerely,

Rick Killingsworth
Prescott Valley Mayor

Arizona Corporation Commission
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