OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEM

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Arizona PIRG Education Fund

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October 7, 2011

Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: ~~Arizona Public Service rate case - E-01345A-11-0063 &~~
Southwest Gas rate case - G-01551A-10-0458

Dear Chairman Pierce and members of the Arizona Corporation Commission,

On behalf of the Arizona PIRG Education Fund, I am writing to encourage you to proceed with incorporating a strong decoupling policy in the Arizona Public Service (APS) and Southwest Gas (SW Gas) rate cases.

As I believe you are aware, the Arizona PIRG Education Fund conducts research and education on public interest issues. In particular, we work to protect consumers from unfair marketplace abuses and unsafe products. While it may seem counter for us to advocate for a shift in the business model in favor of the utilities; decoupling compliments the Arizona PIRG Education Fund supported-Energy Efficiency Standard (EES) passed by the Commission and when properly implemented will save money for residential and business customers.

The perverse financial incentive that currently exists for APS, SW Gas, and other utilities which encourages Arizonans to use more energy is costly to the utilities and to the ratepayers. Successful businesses thrive when they reduce not increase unnecessary capital expenses.

We commend the Commission for your support of decoupling and urge you to adopt a strong policy in the APS and SW Gas rate cases to better ensure that energy efficiency goals are met.

Please feel free to contact me at (602)252-9227 or dbrown@arizonapirg.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

Diane E. Brown
Executive Director

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