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## **Sierra Club Delivers Thousands of Signatures to Governor Brewer**

### **Asking Her to Stop Solar Tax!**

PHOENIX – Today, Sierra Club delivered an open letter to Governor Jan Brewer asking her to demonstrate a strong commitment to solar energy by ending the tax on leased rooftop solar systems.

**Sandy Bahr, Chapter Director of the Sierra Club's Grand Canyon Chapter, issued the following statement:**

This latest attack on rooftop solar to add new taxes on residents who lease their systems makes no sense at all, especially in a place that has more than 300 days of sunshine. This new tax could result in an additional cost of \$152 per year for residential rooftop solar – an expense that would nearly cancel out savings for rooftop solar owners and would ultimately hurt Arizona's economy.

Leasing is often the only option for many working families who can't afford to purchase solar modules outright. Schools and churches also benefit significantly from lease programs. Unfortunately, the Department of Revenue has reinterpreted longstanding state law to force people to pay property taxes on leased solar panels, which had been exempt alongside purchased panels.

Governor Jan Brewer has stated repeatedly that she supports solar. We need to ensure that she backs up her words with action. She should end this solar tax now.

**Will Greene, Phoenix Organizer of the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign, issued the following statement:**

Taxing an industry so vital to Arizona's future makes no sense and is simply poor public policy. Unelected state officials in the Department of Revenue have made this decision even though Arizonans, when surveyed, convey time and time again that they want to see a transition to clean energy such as solar. This tax flies in the face of logic and public sentiment.

The tax also appears to be the "first of its kind" nationwide, meaning the Governor and officials at the Department of Revenue are willing to let Arizona become known as the pioneer of a newly conceived tax on an emerging technology.

The state legislature rejected a bill that would codify this tax. Despite this decision by our elected representatives, the Department of Revenue has decided to proceed. Thousands of Arizonans have spoken up against the solar tax to the only elected official with any kind of power to eliminate it – Governor Jan Brewer. She can prove her commitment to the future of Arizona by urging Department of Revenue officials to reconsider.

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