

**ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE INTERIM MEETING - MOHAVE COUNTY WEST BASIN WATER USERS STUDY COMMITTEE,
Senator Sonny Borrelli, Co-Chair and Representative Regina Cobb, Co-Chair**

October 26, 2020. 10:00 AM – Arizona State House of Representatives, HHR1

Good Morning and first, I want to commend the work of this committee to look for opportunities to secure Arizona's groundwater supply.

My name is Lori Singleton, President and CEO for Arizona Forward. We are a 52-year-old non-partisan nonprofit organization that is driving sustainability initiatives across our state. Our members comprise large corporations such as Intel and Wells Fargo, all three universities, CAP, APS and SRP, most of the major municipalities in the state and many other small businesses and organizations who believe that we are at a critical junction in Arizona and throughout the nation as it relates to water supplies, heat, forest fires, clean energy and a thriving economy.

The overarching theme of my talking points today -- is that uncertainty with respect to our future water supply affects business growth and economic development as well as Arizona's reputational interests. Businesses are invested in this issue at many levels. Groundwater management across the entire state is the next essential step for Arizona's water story. The business community cares about groundwater management because it is essential for long-term planning and risk-mitigation. Uncertainty around water supply creates risks that will negatively impact economic growth and our state's future.

While we have made great strides recently with agreements related to the DWCP, we need to continue to shore up and modernize the way we think about water policy which includes everything from the Colorado River to groundwater, from urban areas to rural areas.

Business and economic growth rely on a secure and sustainable water supply across the entire state, not just in certain parts of the state. No matter where you are in Arizona, a predictable water supply is critical for a healthy and growing economy.

I again want to thank the Committee for your work on and attention to this issue and offer our support as we continue to work on groundwater policies that ensure Arizona continues to have a secure and sustainable water supply long into the future.