STATE OF OUR STATE 2019
Rural Arizona NOW
ASU MORRISON INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY • NOVEMBER 25, 2019

Matt Ryan
Coconino County

As the second largest county in the US, we have unique challenges.

- The impact of visitors is significant. We need funding for infrastructure.
- We are challenged with the cost of living and the impact on housing.
- Legislation needs to take in account the challenges Rural AZ has that (Urban AZ never contends with - e.g. support services + long distances)

Mila Besich
Maricopa County

We are pleased to be here today. Workforce Development and Homelessness impact us greatly.

- The ports of entry are huge revenue generators.
- 60% of Santa Cruz County residents lack high-speed internet.
- Tourism is huge for us.
- We need Maricopa County to remember we are here.

Bruce Bracker
Apache-Sitgreaves County

I serve because we are unique (and small) and we have big things to say.

- We have lots of Natural Resources with the Checkerboard Land ownership (Most by Federal)
- Create "bridges" between Phoenix and Rural Places (physical and technological)
- Our pace of life is wonderful.

Jason Witing
Superstitious-Striped Mountains

I serve to bring awareness to Rural Arizona that is not the desert.

- Our forests are very unhealthy.
- We have to work twice as hard as we have to work with the state and Federal entities.
- What we see with the recreational use of water is offensive.

Jane Rustel Wniecki
Apache-Sitgreaves County

I serve because I have a deep connection to my own homeland.

- We have to work twice as hard as we have to work with the state and Federal entities.
- We are responsible for where we are.

Stop accepting this as the status quo. Convince people at all levels to drive the levels of incomes per capita up to National Levels.

ASU. The University is a force. Thousands of young people to learn.

Urban vs Rural: Arizona is as large as the US and has massive diversity. Per capita income is unusually concentrated in Maricopa County. All trends A2 to US are negative.

25% increase in students graduating from High School is the root of our economic problem.

The University is a force. Online, on campus, thousands of students.

At the State of the State, we highlighted:

- Native American Connections: Improve lives of the whole person and the whole community.
- Gammage & Burroughs: Explain ourselves to ourselves.
- Improvisers: Affordable healthcare and community development.

Our ancestors' resilience is our strength.