



MAYOR PHIL GORDON



March 8, 2010

Honorable Members of the Arizona Delegation:

As we continue to fight our way through this economic crisis, my focus remains on putting Phoenix residents back to work and keeping Phoenix families safe. I remain steadfast in my commitment to build a Green Phoenix – the most sustainable city in the country and to attract new businesses to Phoenix – diversifying our economy and creating jobs.

The Green Phoenix Initiative is a 17-point plan that champions a comprehensive, collaborative effort to create jobs, save energy and spark economic recovery. The goal is to make Phoenix carbon-neutral and the most sustainable city in America. Phoenix has the potential to become a knowledge and research laboratory for the rest of the country for solar and other alternative energy technologies.

#### Phoenix Sky Train

The centerpiece of Green Phoenix is our airport sky train, which will provide service to all three terminals and create a direct link to the regional METRO light rail system. Upon completion, this automated train will have created 5,900 jobs, will take more than 100 buses out of circulation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 5,500 tons. Daily ridership will be more than 96,000 passengers. The project is being designed to be sustainable and will be one of the first transit systems in the nation to be LEED certified.

#### Green Phoenix Learning Campus

The city has formed a partnership with Maricopa Community Colleges – the largest community college system in the country – to develop the Green Phoenix Learning Campus, a combined community college and charter high school focused on green jobs of the future. The campus will be located in the heart of downtown Phoenix, just a few blocks away from the city's light rail. The Green Phoenix Learning Campus will become a focal point in the community for workers seeking retraining and will prepare students for a lifetime of opportunities in a green career.

#### Green Rail Demonstration Project

In partnership with Arizona State University, the city is seeking a \$75 million federal grant in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds from the Department of Energy to support implementation of the Green Rail Demonstration Project. Situated along the central Phoenix light rail line, the program is designed to renovate more than 10,500 homes and 90 million square feet of commercial/industrial space. Ultimately, the effort is projected to save 302 million kWh a year translating into savings of more than \$26 million a year and a reduction of CO2 emission of 151,000 metric tons a year.

#### Solar Phoenix

This year, the city of Phoenix and our partners (Arizona Public Service, National Bank of Arizona and Solar City) launched the nation's largest city-sponsored residential solar program - Solar Phoenix.

To date, more than 1,500 households had inquired about how they could have solar on their rooftop, installers have visited more than 730 homes to share greater detail about how the program works and 141 homes now have solar panels as a result of Solar Phoenix. Based upon the success of the program thus far, I believe we will have 1,000 Solar Phoenix rooftops by spring of this year.

The environmental impact of Solar Phoenix is incredible. By installing solar panels on 1,000 Phoenix homes, we will be offsetting 242 million pounds of carbon dioxide. This is equivalent to planting 130,000 trees or taking more than 30,000 cars off the road for an entire year.

Especially important, given these tough times, is the economic impact of Solar Phoenix. Where there are hundreds of homes going solar, there are hundreds of jobs being created. The key areas of growth are sales, construction, operations, maintenance and indirect jobs, totaling more than 600 jobs.

I appreciate, in advance, your review and consideration of the city's federal priorities and requests. I look forward to meeting with you to discuss these issues and others in the future. Please feel free to contact me on my cell anytime 602-206-8777 to discuss issues of concern to this community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phil Gordon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Phil Gordon  
Mayor