

ARIZONA RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
2010 RURAL POLICY FORUM

Jobs Bill - Group Recommendations

Arizona Quality Jobs Program

We recommend a “Made in Arizona” provision to reward and incentivize base industry companies for expanding their supply chain to rural Arizona. The rural Arizona business community must have an opportunity to benefit from the Jobs Bill and has the capacity to supply components for existing base industries as well as the capacity to grow to supply those that this bill will attract to Arizona. The language could make use of “Made in Arizona” and “Grow Your Own” concepts in order to garner support for small and rural-based businesses.

Arizona Enterprise Zone Program

We recommend a tiered approach to incentives that takes into consideration the diversity in size of the cities and towns throughout Arizona. The program should distinguish between populations and locations in and out of Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) as opposed to individual community populations so that a 50,000 rural population isn't competing with a 50,000 population MSA community. Although further research is needed in order to more appropriately define the details distinguishing the incentives for the various types of communities in Arizona, three or more tiers should be established identifying investments and job creation criteria.

Arizona Opportunity Fund

We recommend a 10% set-aside of the AOF and a waiver of job creation requirements to incentivize entrepreneurs and small business growth in rural Arizona. The Arizona Jobs bill is not just about jobs it's also about capital investment. Capital investments both from big business into the state and from the state into small businesses – the backbone of our economy – and both result in the creation of more jobs. Each incentive results in the type and scale of jobs that are most appropriate for urban and rural parts of the state.