

Legislators' work will help secure future of city, state

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It has been a great honor to serve as your representative in the state House for the past eight years, six years of which I spent as chairman of the House Commerce Committee. I have been privileged during my tenure to have taken a leadership role on a number of issues instrumental in strengthening our local economy and empowering Arizonans.

Last year, for example, I sponsored a renewable-energy jobs bill, Senate Bill 1403, which has been credited by the Greater Phoenix Economic Council for bringing 1,100 jobs and eight companies to Arizona.

This bill was a follow-up to the research-and-development bill I championed the prior year, which brought several new small start-ups to our Airpark. Few things make me as happy as when a company calls and tells me it is moving to Arizona because of our investment in R&D!

In addition, just hours before the close of this legislative session, the Scottsdale revitalization bill that I sponsored passed, giving property owners in south Scottsdale the freedom to build and redevelop an area that for too long has been overlooked. I am grateful to have partnered with Scottsdale and its leadership to bring this important economic development tool to an area most in need. This bill empowers the property owners to make decisions, rather than the government.

I was also able to address inequities in our mortgage system that caused unnecessary and premature home foreclosures by sponsoring House Bill 2626. The foreclosure-procedures bill ensures that homeowners have the opportunity to modify their mortgage before their home is foreclosed upon and is a crucial step toward securing Arizona's future economic prosperity.

Every economist I have spoken to says the same thing: Our economy will not recover until we curb our foreclosure rates.

These bills are just a few of many tangible steps I have taken to secure Arizona's future as one of the most business- and family-friendly states in the nation. Despite the tremendous progress we have made, we still have a long way to go before our economy and job markets are stabilized.

I am now focusing on jobs, jobs and more jobs. Already, I am working on revamping our enterprise-zone program, so existing Arizona companies can take advantage of the program and expand their businesses. I hope to be able to get this passed next session.

As we all know, a quality education system, sustainable health-care services and long-term transportation needs depend on having a strong economic base. By working together, we can ensure a bright future for Arizona and the businesses and families in legislative District 8.

Michele Reagan, a Republican, represents Scottsdale, Fountain Hills and the Verde communities in the state House.

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Abstract (Document Summary)

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