

MAY 16 2015

LEGAL
DEPT OF WATER RESOURCES

Never has this unfair petition been about water! I'm Lynne Ray, 4th generation farmer/rancher in the San Simon Valley. I've farmed/ranched for over 44 years in San Simon Valley. Our Sons are 5th and Grandchildren in the Gym today are 6th! I've never left San Simon Valley for more than 5 weeks my entire life. When I did leave for training in St Paul Minneapolis I took Cerro Farm dirt with me.

My family has been here for almost a hundred years. I've farmed cotton, chile, alfalfa, corn and a little bit of lavender. Every single generation became more efficient as new technology and equipment became available and we improved the way we farmed/ranched. Never did we take advantage of the abundant water. Never was water shortage an issue. We handed down knowledge from generation to generation knowledge of where the water flowed, how it even moved with the tides and how to use it wisely.

I began farming in the 70's and witnessed firsthand how rising fuel costs forced many of my farmer/neighbors to leave the valley. Economics was a tough lesson. While water was abundant, it became too costly to pump for most. *Cotton prices bottomed out.*

In the 80's we lost our government subsidies and yet managed to survive. The water, of course, stayed steady and constant.

My Dad, Edward Barnes, has cleared most of the farmable acres in San Simon and due to health reasons sold to FICO in the 2000's. I threw in 320 acres that was contingent to Daddy. At that time I bought an additional 320 acres to retire on eventually. Land has always been a solid investment, generation after generation. We've always taken care of the land and water. *This land has NOT been farmed since the depression of the 30's.*

Because my life as a working farmer was hard on my body I planned to sell or use as collateral, these remaining farm acres, for a convenience store and gas station on commercial property I bought over 20 years ago. I carry the plans and schematics with me everywhere!

Overnight my retirement acres and plans became worthless at the signing of the February unfair petition. That working retirement plan became impossible. **Do not** tell my Grandchildren that this is not personal! Every year since Daddy passed away my Mom gives a graduating senior involved in AG the Edward Barnes Memorial Scholarship. FICO is the only petitioner that tries to give back to the community. The majority of them offer nothing. They take and never give!

My God given right as a legal born citizen of the United States of America was taken away by the signers of this unfair petition. This unfair petition has never been about the water!!

There are many other innocent victims in this valley with stories similar to ours that have been destroyed just to line the huge silk pockets of the greedy, selfish corporate signers of this unfair petition.

Their only purpose is to increase their holdings while manipulating the government at the expense of the hard working, law abiding citizens of the San Simon Valley.

I believe the petitioners owe the San Simon Valley a huge apology and a pledge to withdraw this unfair petition.

This has never been about the water!

5-16-2015

Lynne Ray 520-845-4488 520-507-3981 4456 N Indian Springs Rd, San Simon, AZ 85632

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Ray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and a stylized "Ray".