

From: [Kim Hilburn](#)
To: [Sharon Scantlebury](#)
Subject: Irrigation Non Expansion Area for the San Simon Valley Sub-basin
Date: Thursday, July 16, 2015 8:52:08 PM

Dear Ms. Scantlebury

My name is Kim Hilburn, and our family resides just north of the town of Willcox, Arizona on approximately 4.5 acres of land. My husband, Kevin, and I are very concerned about the proposed Irrigation Non-Expansion Area for the San Simon Sub-basin. After reviewing several of the documents from both sides of this issue, we feel it is important to express our concerns of this proposed INA.

It comes across in the information available as the large corporation pushing out the “small business farmer” and any potential growth for new agricultural business. Whether or not this was the initial intent, it has certainly brought to surface many negative responses and contradictory information in regards to this bill. As a turn of events, and panic to the proposal, there are acres of land which are now being irrigated in the local area with no crops planted. Thus, wasting water with the already fluctuating water levels. How is this beneficial?

Was there documentation for a proposal for a water conservation program for the already in place farms, orchards and communities in the San Simon basin? Will this eventually become a proposal for the Willcox area farms, orchards and community? How about the larger populated areas of Sierra Vista? Perhaps there could be some compromise of water conservation to the established mentioned farms and new agricultural business with updated regulations. We believe that water conservation is important for the livelihood of many of our neighbors and surrounding communities, but strongly disagree with the proposed intention of this INA.

The proposed INA is not a good solution. The San Simon basin, the town of Bowie, and Southern Cochise County communities, will all be affected in a negative way if this is passed. The already struggling economy will suffer more detriment. Business owners/investors will look elsewhere for land, and those who are already in the area will leave. As a result if passed, it will create a downturn in real estate, property values, county taxes, education, and businesses in general who support the population.

Once proposed to us as a “water conservation” proposal, it has come to light that this is not really “water conservation” at all. If passed, those with already existing water rights, will then just expand their irrigation line to include the expanded crop area, still using more water.

We ask that this Irrigation Non-Expansion for the San Simon Sub-basin be stopped. Please re-evaluate and present a true proposal for regulating and conserving water in the area. The existing farmers, orchards, new businesses and home farms need help in keeping their livelihood and support for their family.

Regards,

Kim and Kevin Hilburn

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