



Growing food in our community since 1946

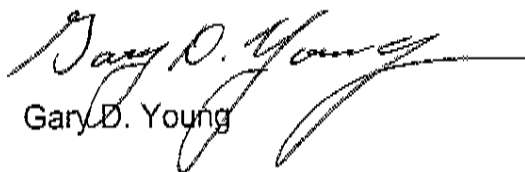
February 27, 2001

To: Governor Jane Hull
Re: **The Arizona Agricultural Heritage Act SB1389**

Senate Bill 1389 needs your support! Introduced by Senator Guenther from Yuma, the Arizona Agricultural Heritage Act would set up a commission and funding to purchase conservation easements from farmers and ranchers being pressured to develop some of the best and most cherished agricultural land in Arizona. The Arizona agriculture community and all citizens concerned about the preservation of our environment should support this bill since private property rights are recognized, responsible conservation practices are addressed, and the open space of traditional agricultural use is preserved. Senate Bill 1389 is designed to encourage local non-profit organizations, such as the Central Arizona Land Trust, to build consensus within the community and purchase the development rights from the land owner using a combination of private donations, the Agricultural Heritage fund, and funding from national organizations and the federal government which require a state program such as this.

The bill is based on a program now being used in Montana and provides a balanced approach to influencing growth patterns. The bill has the sponsorship of Senator Arzberger and Representatives O'Halleran, Flake and Gleason.

Sincerely,


Gary D. Young