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Arizona State Senate

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November 10, 2009

To Whom it May Concern:

I am extremely concerned about the sustainability of our region in central Arizona. I have examined the Town of Clarkdale's plans for a Sustainability Park and believe that this concept is one way that the State of Arizona and the Verde Valley can achieve long-term economic vitality and at the same time improve our environmental health, and our wise use of scarce water resources. The Clarkdale Sustainability Park is a concept whose time has come.

I want to encourage other legislative representatives and those interested in helping to wean our state and our nation from foreign fossil fuels to support the Town of Clarkdale in this effort any way they can.

Let me also mention that this transformative project promises to allow the Town to create new, durable revenue sources that will ease the tax burden of its citizens by fostering high-paying jobs and substantial economic development for the region.

The area surrounding Peck's Lake in Clarkdale, currently owned by Freeport McMoRan Copper and Gold, has many unique attributes that make it a logical location for a facility of this type. A wastewater treatment facility that will ease the demand on our overstressed aquifers can be easily sited here, and the existence of more than 120 acres of land formerly covered by tailings makes this site especially suitable for solar arrays.

This project will require legislative support, financial backing, community engagement and regulatory cooperation for it to bring the benefits to the Verde Valley that it promises. I am committed to providing any support that I can, and I again urge you to do the same. With your help, the Town of Clarkdale, the Verde Valley and the State of Arizona will have a brighter future!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Steve Pierce".

**Steve Pierce
State Senator – District 1**