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ADEQ Director Grumbles Reacts to *State of the Air 2010* Report

PHOENIX (April 28, 2010) -- Statement by Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Director Benjamin H. Grumbles concerning The American Lung Association's *State of the Air 2010* report:

"I disagree with the methodology used to grade the Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale metropolitan area at the top of the list of cities most polluted by year-round particle levels for PM-2.5. This finding came about because of one lonely air quality monitor near the Cowtown area of western Pinal County, nearly 40 miles and across the mountains from downtown Phoenix. It also was based on data from 2006-08 and the pollutant levels have shown improvement since then as we have continued to work with agricultural interests and other interests in that area to reduce dust.

"I appreciate the overall work of the American Lung Association and recognize that the Phoenix area has significant air pollution problems. The good news is we're making some progress on dust and ozone in the Phoenix area, but not enough and not as quickly as we'd like. The other good news is that Tucson and Flagstaff have high quality air and we want to keep it that way. We'll continue to work with EPA, local agencies, citizens, and businesses to use the full range of tools and strategies to reduce pollution and protect public health."

The complete report can be found at:

<http://www.stateoftheair.org/2010/assets/SOTA2010.pdf>

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