



## **02-04-14 Senate Appropriations**

*Remarks from Chad Heinrich, Vice President of the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce Supporting of ABOR Research*

The Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce celebrated our 125th anniversary this past November. That's 125 years of helping make our Valley and our state a better place to live, work and play.

Throughout our history as a leading business organization, we have witnessed many economic cycles: Recoveries, booms, recessions, recoveries, booms, and recessions. The one thing that we need during our current recovery, besides more jobs, is better jobs. How do we achieve that? Through diversifying our economy.

New industries will create that diversity and help sustain our economic future. History tells us universities have been valuable partners in this effort throughout the nation and throughout history, through workforce training and the development of new businesses and industries.

About two miles east of here is a spectacular example of what success can come from university research partnering with business and private industry.

We've all witnessed the success around the Fifth Street area in downtown Phoenix. This success happened because of investments in university research and collaboration with the private sector. As a result, our city's core is beginning to thrive, because leaders of business, academic research, and the public sector worked together.

As we start this conversation with today's hearing, I urge you to balance financial accountability within the State Government in the short term with our need for long-term vision and prosperity for our state's future.

Valuable research requires partnership. Research alone is worth nothing without private companies to promote its value to the public.

We are confident that this and future legislatures are and will be made up of brave leaders who are willing to accept the challenge of big ideas, while also addressing our state's immediate needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to start this discussion about the role of research and the value it creates for the private sector in our state.

The Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce looks forward to helping lead this conversation, with the goal of creating a better, stronger, and more stable Arizona economy for our state's future.