



August 5, 2026

Mr. David Hoffman, Chairman of the Board
Lee Enterprises
4600 E. 53rd St.
Davenport, IA 52807
ir@lee.net

Re: Support for preserving the David W. Fitzsimmons collection

Dear Mr. Hoffman:

On behalf of the Society of Professional Journalists' Valley of the Sun (Phoenix) Pro Chapter, we write in support of David W. Fitzsimmons' effort to place his extensive collection of original editorial cartoons and related materials with the University of Arizona Libraries' Special Collections.

For nearly four decades, Mr. Fitzsimmons chronicled Arizona's civic and political life as the editorial cartoonist for the *Arizona Daily Star*. As we're sure you know, he was a Pulitzer Prize Finalist in 1988 and was judged the best political cartoonist in the state by the Arizona Press Club for multiple years. But the collection described in his proposal – including more than 10,000 original cartoons, correspondence, research materials, political memorabilia, awards and other artifacts – is more than the record of one distinguished career. It is a significant body of Arizona's journalistic and public history.

Preserving the original work and the materials surrounding its creation will give future journalists, students, scholars and citizens a valuable resource for understanding Arizona's communities and the role of a free press in civic life.

We understand that questions about reproduction rights have delayed the donation. Mr. Fitzsimmons has proposed a practical solution: Lee Enterprises could retain the commercial rights it believes appropriate while permitting customary scholarly, educational, exhibition and archival uses by the University. We encourage Lee Enterprises to work promptly and constructively with Mr. Fitzsimmons and the University to reach an agreement along those lines.

This solution would protect legitimate commercial interests while ensuring that unique materials are inventoried, professionally conserved and made available for responsible research. The

archive's full significance cannot be known until trained archivists examine and catalog it. Postponing that work leaves an irreplaceable historical record at unnecessary risk.

Supporting this donation would also honor the *Arizona Daily Star*, which brought Mr. Fitzsimmons' work to readers for decades. A joint gift by Lee Enterprises and Mr. Fitzsimmons, if mutually acceptable, would appropriately recognize both the creator and the newspaper that published the work while demonstrating stewardship, public service and respect for journalism's legacy.

The Society of Professional Journalists is committed to improving and protecting journalism and to fostering excellence among journalists. In that spirit, our chapter strongly supports preserving this collection at the University of Arizona and respectfully asks Lee Enterprises to help resolve the outstanding rights issues without further delay.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to safeguard a vital part of Arizona's civic and journalistic history for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Tim Eigo
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Nicole Greason
Vice President
Society of Professional Journalists
Valley of the Sun (Phoenix) Pro Chapter

cc: David Fitzsimmons