



29 December 2006

The Honorable Bill Richardson, Governor
State Capitol Building Suite 400
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Governor Richardson:

Global Warming is one of the most significant challenges facing our nation today.

In New Mexico, global warming has been linked to a decrease in snowpack and water resources and an increase in wildfires. Left unchecked, global warming will have profound economic, social, and health costs for our communities and will have untold consequences for our children and future generations.

While the climate change discussion has mainly focused around the issues of energy production and vehicle emissions, ***it is buildings that are far and away the greatest consumers of energy and materials*** and, to a lesser extent, ***direct contributors to green house gas emissions through the direct combustion of natural gas and oil in heating and cooling.***

These two factors taken together amount to about 50% to 55% of all energy consumed in this country and in the State of New Mexico. It is not a great leap to see that reducing the energy consumption of all buildings will have a tremendous impact on energy consumption and also positively influence energy production and transportation emissions. The problem has been defined by *Architect Ed Mazria's*, and others', research and on his website www.architecture2030.org.

We commend your Executive Order on global warming and the leadership you have shown to address the problem. We now ask that you to take the next step to promote and pass legislation that will lead to mandatory reductions in global warming emissions in New Mexico by 10% below 2000 levels by 2020, and by 75% by 2050. As you know scientists now tell us that these levels of reductions are necessary if we are to curb the worst impacts of global warming.

These targets are bold but achievable and will spur new industries in energy and efficiency technologies, create new jobs, and protect the New Mexico way of life. To meet these targets, (I/we) also support the following four policy solutions:

- (1) Increase energy efficiency by promoting and widely adopting the Architecture 2030 Challenge, which will require that all new residential, commercial, and government buildings and renovations be constructed to reduce fossil fuel consumption by 50 percent by 2010 and be "carbon neutral" by 2030;
- (2) Expand the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard to 30%, which would increase the percentage of energy generated from renewable sources such as solar, wind, and biomass;
- (3) Extend and expand tax credits for wind and solar power;
- (4) Adopt a Clean Cars Program, which would reduce global warming emissions and pollution from vehicles by up to 35% by 2016 and promote advanced-technology, low-polluting vehicles;

Solutions to global warming will not only ensure the well being of our children in the long run, but will very quickly provide new economic opportunities for our state. That is why CASA supports these policies that will reduce New Mexico's contribution to global warming. We encourage you to officially endorse these policies and see that they are implemented.

Sincerely,

Howard M. Kaplan

Phyllis Kaplan