

Honorable Chair Gregory Green
Board Member and Hearing Officer Gay Dillingham
Board Member Neri Holguin
Board Member Frank Simms
Board Member Jim Gollin
1190 St. Francis Drive N2153
Santa Fe, N.M. 87505

Dear Honorable Hearing Examiner and Environmental Improvement Board Members,

Please consider this letter for public comment in the case of EIB 08-19

Global climate change caused by the build-up of greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere is already disrupting ecosystems, and the climate-linked effects in New Mexico include declines in snowpack, earlier peak stream flows, forest mortality (beetle bug infestation), drought, and population declines in sensitive species. If rising temperatures are to be kept within acceptable limits then we need to significantly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

If nothing is done to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, New Mexico could experience some \$3.2 billion in associated costs -- led primarily by wildfires and health-care. In contrast, if the Environmental Improvement Board sets a cap on greenhouse gas emissions New Mexicans could benefit enormously; the state could foster the development of clean energy. New Mexico is 2nd in the nation for solar energy potential and 12th in the nation for wind energy potential, but 48th in actual production. With appropriate climate regulation, New Mexico could be at the forefront of showing what is scientifically necessary to solve this problem.

At the end of the 18th century there were many arguments put forth in England that the abolition of slavery would destroy the economy and would dismantle the economic engine that made modern society possible. The naysayers were proved wrong, the abolition of slavery spurred innovation and creativity and spawned the industrial revolution with new energy sources. We will see the same innovation triggered when you usher in the end of our slavery to fossil fuels.

There is the potential for enormous economic gain to the state should New Mexico get ahead of the curve and become a leader in global warming solutions. The states that develop the infrastructure to produce renewable energy, efficiency, and renewable energy solutions will be the purveyors of the energy for the 21st century and will undoubtedly lead economically.

Thank you,

Print Name

Business/Organization

Address

City / State / Zip

Email