



29 December 2006

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
U.S. Senate
703 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bingaman:

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

In New Mexico, 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 work 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 the United States to 1990 levels by 2020, and to 80% below 1990 levels 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 American way of life. To meet these targets, (I/we) also support the following five 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) Create a national Renewable Portfolio Standard requiring a minimum annual percentage of 20 percent renewable electricity by 2020;
- (3) Extend and expand tax credits for wind and solar power;
- (4) Create a vehicle greenhouse gas emission standard for cars and light-duty vehicles as well as medium and heavy-duty vehicles; and
- (5) Create mandatory greenhouse gas emissions standards for all power plants built after 2012 with a compliance date of 2016.

Solutions to global warming will not only ensure the well being of our children in the long run, but will soon provide new economic opportunities for our country and for New Mexico. That is why CASA supports these policies, which will reduce America's contribution to global warming and create a model for the rest of the world to follow.

Sincerely,

Howard M. Kaplan

Phyllis Kaplan