

**Summary of Public Comments on New Mexico's Climate Change Initiative Given the Evening of October 19, 2005 at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque
Prepared by NMED**

1) I see the Governor's Initiative as "phase I", what about "phase II", which is efforts to adapt to and cope with the impacts of climate change that will be happening?

2) I support this effort and I support including young people. My church is part of PNM's BlueSky program. If the CCAG recommends legislative action, the recommendations should be put in a form that can be directly written into a bill.

3) Has worked 9 yrs. with the Water Assembly's development of the Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Plan. Climate change impacts were too difficult to integrate into the Plan, but it is now evident that increasing temperature will decrease snowpack and therefore Rio Grande water. Problems include overappropriation of water in NM, and the need to keep our compact obligations to TX. Albuquerque has been content to rely on aquifers, but in 20 years this will no longer be available and we must rely on surface water from the Rio Grande or San Juan-Chama. We will "hit the wall" one day, because the cost of desalinating water underground water will be too high and surface water will be insufficient to meet needs. This will greatly hinder development and progress in NM. Climate change is one factor among many. See copies of the Water Plan (www.waterassembly.org). Note the lesson of Chaco -- stay within resource limits, or disaster.

4) Farmer and Middle Rio Grande acequia parciant. CCAG should account for carbon sequestration by farming. Alfalfa doesn't just waste water, it stores lots of carbon in its root system, as well as fixing nitrogen. Oklahoma passed a law providing support for plowing manure into soil, agricultural carbon sequestration. Recommends NM plant more trees, increase biomass. He has solar panel with a meter that tells how much carbon emissions he has avoided. Recommends ways to keep track of all the things we do to reduce carbon emissions. Keep a holistic view.

5) Very anti-nuclear and asks CCAG not to recommend turning to nuclear power as a way of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The costs of nuclear include big costs for storage, safety, etc. Subsidies for clean energy and energy conservation should not just go to big companies, but also to individual homeowners who do things like install solar energy equipment. Recommends totally decentralized approach.

6) Recommends something that citizens can go to the legislature and lobby for energy conservation. The January 2006 session will probably consider some of the good energy bills, which did not pass in 2005. She leads citizen-lobbying groups on trips to the Roundhouse to meet and talk with legislators, attend committee hearings and asked that people contact her if interested in joining.

7) Wants to defend the little people in the solar business. He thinks homeowner subsidies are not a good idea, because it is too complicated for government to find out all the little things that can be done on this, like clearing bushes and trees away from windows to let in sunlight. But, we

need to eliminate subsidies for fossil fuel, and make better use of solar energy. For example, design/modify buildings to utilize more natural daylight instead of just adding solar panels.

8) One challenge for the task force is education of the public. Many people think climate change is not an issue. The Governor and Mayor's change to fuel-efficient vehicles was a good educational tool. We need to get out the word that fuel-efficient vehicles are great and not a sacrifice. Another idea is telecommuting. He introduced this in his workplace, and got greatly improved productivity and much lower turnover because employees were more satisfied.

9) Is here as part of a church group. The NM Council of Churches has programs to help educate church members on climate change and other environmental issues. Houses with flat roofs should consider adding a rooftop solar water heater -- he wants to see more education and encouragement of these statewide. Other steps people can take are switching to energy-efficient lighting, signing up for PNM BlueSky program. If legislation is going to provide incentives to energy producers, incentives should also be provided to consumers who save energy.

10) To help people trying to get active in lobbying the legislature, the state should provide information on bills and sample letters to send to legislators. This material should be in easy-to-understand language, because the bills themselves are very hard for ordinary people to decipher. Also, she wants to know the next step she should take as a homeowner -- add solar, a wood stove, or what?

11) Each of us makes choices. We can contact others about climate change and do other things to address climate change. The issue is deciding how to be in the world morally and ethically. This is a lifestyle change that should not be viewed as making a sacrifice.