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A Statement on the Quality of Our Environment

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We believe that citizens demand and deserve a quality environment, including clean air and water, for reasons of health safety, comfort, and economic and social well-being.

We believe that New Mexico's air, water, and land resources must not be allowed to be further polluted and, in some cases, such environmental quality must be improved.

We believe that technological means exist to control air, water, land, and other environmental pollutants.

We believe that we cannot and should not delay taking obvious action until every final shred of evidence of damage is known.

We believe that promulgation of air quality standards and regulations on a statewide basis is long overdue, due to budgetary and personnel limitations.

We believe that the Health and Social Services Department does not have sufficient budget to conduct a comprehensive or reasonably effective environmental services effort. The Health and Social Services Department has no state funds for air quality management, and a completely unsatisfactory level of water quality management. Additionally, the State's financial base for receipt of federal matching funds is so inadequate that, without substantial improvement, federal funding for water pollution control and municipal construction grants will be revoked.

We believe that New Mexico on the whole, still has a quality environment which is of very significant economic value in terms of tourism, recreation, and attracting clean industry.

We believe that an indiscriminate clamor for industry may produce results that are not in the best economic, social, governmental, or health interests of the majority of the citizens of the State. Further, a degraded environment may actually prove to be detrimental to tourism, recreation attraction of clean industry, and the State's total economy.

We believe that cost of controlling pollution is passed on to citizens and tourists who are the eventual beneficiaries and consumers of clean clear air, water and other environmental quality factors.

We believe that high-level control measures must be instigated now to prevent environmental degradation, and to provide standards and regulations for designing new or additional pollution control facilities.

We believe that any further delay of effective control measures will, in the final analysis, cause greater expenditure to polluters as well as consumers,

We believe that new industry has a right to be advised of pollution control standards and requirements prior to location, construction, and operation.

We believe that any and all significant sources of pollution must be controlled even though they may offer minimal contribution to the total pollution problem, in order to:

- a. be equitable
- b. be effective
- c. be preventive
- d. be thorough and comprehensive
- e. recognize small quantities of some pollutants may be more detrimental than larger quantities of other pollutants.

We believe that New Mexico has the responsibility and obligation of funding environmental services programs to, such a level as will insure an environment that will, in the greatest possible measure, confer optimal health, safety, comfort, and economic and social well-being on its inhabitants; will protect this generation, as well as those yet unborn, from threats posed by the environment, and will maximize the economic and cultural benefits of a healthy people.

We believe that, in some areas, New Mexico does have a responsibility to provide conservation of clean air and water for conservation's sake. Such a policy will provide a resource, a blessing, a unique area, a retreat for future generations who will be thankful for this foresight and gift. This policy would produce more benefit for the greatest number of people over the longest period of time than an irresponsible attitude of judging human needs in terms of the momentary and fleeting opportunity for financial self-gain and environmental destruction.

We believe that a quality environment, once degraded or destroyed, may never be returned to a satisfactory quality.

We believe that most pollution control programs throughout the world have come too little and too late, as a result of hindsight being better than foresight. New Mexico has the advantage of learning by mistakes made elsewhere.

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