

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO
BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT BOARD**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR)
HEARING TO ADOPT NEW REGULATIONS)
AND TO AMEND VARIOUS SECTIONS OF)
20.2.1, 20.2.2, 20.2.70, and 20.2.72 NMAC,)
STATEWIDE CAP ON GREENHOUSE GAS)
EMISSIONS)
_____)**

No. EIB 08-19(R)

**ENTRY OF APPEARANCE OF
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS – NEW MEXICO**

COMES NOW The League of Women Voters – New Mexico pursuant to Rule 20.1.1.303 hereby enters its appearance in this proceeding. In support thereof The League of Women Voters – New Mexico states the following:

1. The League of Women Voters – New Mexico is a nonpartisan political organization, has fought since 1920 to improve our systems of government and impact public policies through citizen education and advocacy. The League’s enduring vitality and resonance comes from its unique decentralized structure. The League is a grassroots organization, working at the national, state and local levels. In New Mexico, there are four local leagues; located in Las Cruces, Los Alamos, Santa Fe, and Albuquerque.

2. The League of Women Voters – New Mexico (LWVNM) supports the New Energy Economy Petition and actively supports aggressive action on reducing greenhouse gases. Global climate change is one of the most serious threats to the environment, health and economy of our nation. Recent scientific studies show that global warming is already causing environmental changes that will have significant global economic and social impacts.

The League believes that now is the time to act on global climate change. We can reduce global warming pollution by imposing a carbon cap based on science, using existing technologies to make power plants and factories more efficient, make cars go farther on a gallon of gasoline, and shift to cleaner technologies. Cities, states and individuals are already adopting many of these solutions, which also reduce our dependence on oil, reduce air pollution, and protect pristine places from oil drilling and mining. State and local initiatives are proving that answers exist.

Based on the best available science, we urge you to support a cap on greenhouse gas emissions for the year 2020 that is at least 25 percent below 1990 levels, without loopholes that will undermine the cap. We also ask that you support a cap for the year 2050 that is 80-100 percent below 1990 emissions.

3. The LWVNM believes that potential impacts on sustainability should be considered in formulating new regulatory positions. Sustainability is defined as meeting the needs of the current generation without impairing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

4. On behalf of our millions of members and advocates we support our strong endorsement for clean energy policies that will promote renewable energy and energy efficiency as well as reduce global warming emissions and protect our natural resources.

Clean energy policies, along with a cap on global warming pollution, are a key component of a comprehensive solution to climate change.

5. The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports a strong state resource conservation policy. New Mexico must provide leadership, set a public example in its operations, develop and enforce regulations promoting conservation, and actively educate its citizens.

The protection of ground and surface water from contamination and the control and reduction in volume of hazardous, toxic and radioactive substances before they reach the land, air or water should be major parts of resource conservation policy; this necessarily includes carbon dioxide and other gasses that contribute to global warming. New Mexico should not be prevented from having

stricter control standards than those of the federal government. Public Health and well-being should rank as the highest priority. The use of alternate energy sources should be encouraged.

6. Global warming is a catastrophic threat to our environment, our health and our economy. The scientific evidence is clear that climate change, caused largely by human emissions of greenhouse gases, is here now, already causing increasingly severe droughts and heat waves in some areas, intensifying floods and hurricanes in others, and triggering more wildfires. Climate change can devastate crops, create drinking water shortages, displace millions of people because of floods and increase the spread of diseases like malaria.

We believe that the United States, as the world's largest per capita source of greenhouse gas emissions, must set a firm limit, or cap, on these emissions. The cap must decline over time to meet pollution-reduction goals based on the best scientific information. Enforceable interim and long-term goals are needed to compel early and effective action and guard against irreversible damage.

7. Establishing the declining cap, based on science and without loopholes, is the single most important issue in climate change and energy legislation. While there are many additional significant issues, no other is at the core of the climate change problem. Without a scientifically-based cap on emissions, other public policies cannot hope to succeed in protecting against catastrophic damage to public health, the environment and economies around the world.

8. It is our New Mexico's responsibility to take immediate action to curb the environmental and public health damages we are already experiencing from greenhouse gas emissions, as well as those that threaten the future vitality of the Earth. We strongly urge you to support a cap on greenhouse gas emissions that is at least 20 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2020 and 80-100 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2050, without loopholes that will undermine the cap. Service should be provided to:

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico
2403 San Mateo Blvd NE, Suite W-16C
Albuquerque, NM 87110
505/884-8441

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, The League of Women Voters of New Mexico enters its appearance in this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Lucero
The League of Women Voters of New Mexico
2403 San Mateo Blvd NE, Suite W-16C
Albuquerque, NM 87110
505/884-8441
Loralucero@aol.com