

**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
NEW MEXICO PEDIATRIC SOCIETY**

COMES NOW The New Mexico Pediatric Society, and pursuant to Rule 20.1.1.303 hereby enters its appearance in this proceeding. In support thereof The New Mexico Pediatric Society states the following:

1. The New Mexico Pediatric Society is an organization of physicians and allied health professionals who care for infants, children, adolescents and young adults. We seek to attain optimal physical, mental, and social health for all New Mexican children, infants to young adults. To this end, the members of the New Mexico Pediatric Society supports the Petition and believes it is imperative that the Environmental Improvement Board set a cap on greenhouse gas emissions.

2. The objectives and purposes of the New Mexico Pediatric Society is to improve health and welfare of all infants and children in the state of New Mexico; to further the policies and objectives of the American Academy of Pediatrics at the state and local levels; to encourage and foster the highest professional understanding regarding social, scientific and socio-economic concerns regarding children's health.

3. Children are our most enduring and vulnerable legacy. For nations as well as individual families, they represent the link between the past and the future, between experience and promise. The nurturing of future generations is a basic, and most important human activity.

4. There is broad scientific consensus that Earth's climate is warming rapidly and at an accelerating rate. Human activities, primarily the burning of fossil fuels, are very likely (90% probability) to be the main cause of this warming. Climate-sensitive changes in ecosystems are already being observed, and fundamental, potentially irreversible, ecological changes may occur in the coming decades. Conservative environmental estimates of the impact of climate changes that are already in process indicate that they will result in numerous health effects to children. The nature and extent of these changes will be greatly affected by actions taken or not taken now at the state and national level.

5. Children represent a particularly vulnerable group that is likely to suffer disproportionately from both direct and indirect adverse health effects of climate change. The health effects of a rapidly changing climate are likely to be overwhelmingly negative, particularly in the poorest communities, which have contributed least to greenhouse gas emissions.

6. Because of their physical, physiologic, and cognitive immaturity, children are often most vulnerable to adverse health effects from environmental hazards.¹ As the climate changes, environmental hazards may shift and possibly increase, and children are likely to suffer disproportionately from these changes.² Anticipated direct health consequences of climate change include injury and death from extreme weather events and natural disasters, increases in

¹ Etzel RA, Balk SJ, eds. *Pediatric Environmental Health*. 2nd ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2003

² Shea K. Global environmental change and children's health: understanding the challenges and finding solutions. *J Pediatr*. 2003;143:149–154

climate-sensitive infectious diseases, increases in air pollution–related illness, and more heat-related, potentially fatal, illness. Within all of these categories, children have increased vulnerability compared with other groups.

7. Additional effects of climate change, with profound implications for the health and welfare of future generations of children, are anticipated. Food availability could be reduced as food productivity patterns shift and species diversity declines. Water availability will change and become much reduced in certain areas (drought). Large-scale, forced migrations are conceivable, driven by abrupt climate change, natural disaster, or political instability over resource availability.

8. The speed with which global GHG emissions can be reduced will have a significant effect on the rate and degree of warming, but even the most optimistic scenarios describe continued warming into the next century. As climate change progresses, social and political institutions must respond with aggressive mitigation and flexible adaptation strategies to preserve and protect public health, particularly for children.

9. The New Mexico Pediatric Society enters its appearance in this proceeding to examine and present comments, evidence and argument concerning this matter.

10. The New Mexico Pediatric Society should be served with copies of all pleadings and other documents filed in this proceeding by any participant. Service should be provided to:

NM Pediatric Society
2132 A Central Ave SE #289
Albuquerque, NM 87110
Phone 505-925-7613
Fax 505-925-7601

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, The New Mexico Pediatric Society enters its appearance in this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

The New Mexico Pediatric Society

Joanne M. Ray, D.O., F.A.A.P.
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Dated: _____