

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-47

SUPPORTING THE REPEAL OF 20.2.350 NMAC (Greenhouse Gas Cap-and-Trade Provisions); 20.2.100 NMAC (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Program); 20.2.300 NMAC (Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions); and 20.2.301 (Greenhouse Gas Reporting – Verification Requirements)

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board in 2010 approved regulations for a greenhouse gas cap-and-trade program, greenhouse gas reporting and verification, and a separate greenhouse gas cap regulation; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico regulations require greenhouse gas reductions that are substantially more aggressive than have been considered by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, this is a national and global issue, and should not be addressed with regulations on the state level; and

WHEREAS, the regulations apply to New Mexico employers such as oil and gas producers, refineries, manufacturers, cement and asphalt plants, power plants, universities, military bases, mineral processing, and others; and

WHEREAS, there are no commercially-viable control technologies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, therefore the only ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are fuel switching, reduce operations, shut down facilities or move out of the state of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the cap applies only to New Mexico-regulated industries and will result in a cost driver on energy, goods and services that will not be present in other states and which will make New Mexico energy, goods and services non-competitive; and

WHEREAS, the price of energy is a key economic development consideration for companies seeking to locate new businesses in the state or grow their existing businesses here; and

WHEREAS, the impact of this cap will reach far beyond regulated entities and have a noticeable and negative impact on consumers of energy, goods and services throughout New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico has one of the lowest per household income rates in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the cost to comply with these regulations will drive up the cost of electricity and impede our economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, climate change is a global environmental issue and no reduction of any amount in New Mexico's emissions would measurably reduce the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, there is an existing federal greenhouse gas reporting rule that all parties subject to the New Mexico rule will already be reporting, in more detail than New Mexico requires, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and the New Mexico verification rule is an unnecessary cost, considering that the federal reporting rule has no third-party verification costs; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board has scheduled hearings on the cap-and-trade regulation, the reporting and verification rules, and the cap regulation in November and December 2011 in Santa Fe.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Curry County Commission supports the repeal of 20.2.350 NMAC (Greenhouse Gas Cap-and-Trade Provisions); 20.2.100 NMAC (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Program); 20.2.300 NMAC (Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions); and 20.2.301 (Greenhouse Gas Reporting – Verification Requirements) because these regulations will cause significant economic disruption in New Mexico and deliver no meaningful environmental benefits.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Curry County Commission calls upon its residents to submit comments to the Environmental Improvement Board either by writing to the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board or by attending the public comment sessions in person.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be sent to the New Mexico Association of Counties, the New Mexico Environment Improvement Board, the three (3) New Mexico Senators, and three (3) New Mexico Representatives who represent Curry County in the New Mexico Legislature and to the Honorable Susana Martinez, Governor of the State of New Mexico.

PASSED AND APPROVED unanimously by the Board of the Curry County Commission on the 11th day of October 2011.

BOARD OF CURRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

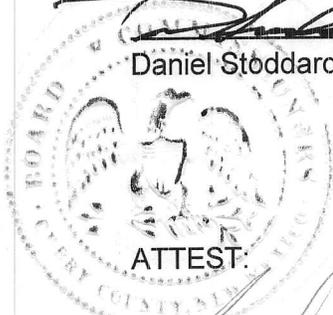

Caleb Chandler, Chairman

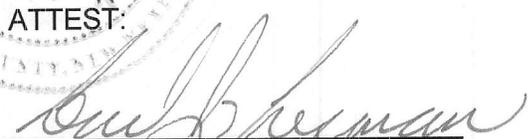
Approved - Unavailable for signature
Wendell Bostwick


Frank H. Blackburn


Robert O. Sandoval


Daniel Stoddard



ATTEST:

Coni Jo Lyman, County Clerk