

1 **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**
2 **OF SANTA FE COUNTY**

3 **RESOLUTION NO. 2009-220**

4 **INTRODUCED BY:**

5 Commissioner Holian

6 **A RESOLUTION**

7 **RECOGNIZING THE URGENCY OF STABILIZING THE CLIMATE AS WELL AS**
8 **THE ROLE THAT SANTA FE COUNTY CAN PLAY IN SUCH AN ENDEAVOR, AND**
9 **IN SUPPORT OF U.S. MAYORS CLIMATE PROTECTION AGREEMENT**

10
11 **WHEREAS**, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has found that "warming of the
12 climate system is unequivocal," and that "most of the observed increase in global average
13 temperatures since the mid-20th century is very likely due to the observed increase in
14 anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations"; and

15 **WHEREAS**, New Mexico has experienced an average of 30% more warming compared to
16 the U.S. as a whole, according to "Hotter and Drier: The West's Changed Climate", Rocky
17 Mountain Climate Organization & Natural Resources Defense Council, March 2008; and

18 **WHEREAS**, in the next 50-100 years, New Mexico is projected to experience a 6-12 degree
19 increase in average temperatures with more extreme heat waves, more flooding, and water
20 shortages, according to "Potential Effects of Climate Change on New Mexico", State of New
21 Mexico, (http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/cc/potential_effects_climate_change_nm.pdf);
22 and

23 **WHEREAS**, the estimated costs of inaction on climate change are significant and expected
24 to reach \$3,430 per year by 2020 (per household), representing approximately 8% of New
25 Mexico's median household income, according to "An Overview of Potential Economic
26 Costs to New Mexico of a Business-as-Usual Approach to Climate Change", The Program on
27 Climate Economics-University of Oregon, February 2009; and

28 **WHEREAS**, the impacts of climate change will most likely adversely affect low-income
29 communities least able to cope with the effects of a hotter and drier climate, according to
30 "Climate Change and Global Justice: Lessons from the Theory of Public Finance", Joseph
31 Stiglitz, speech at the International Economics Association Congress, June 29, 2008; and

1 **WHEREAS**, coal combustion is a leading source of global warming pollution and represents
2 a serious threat to the climate; 32% of U.S. Green House Gas (GHG) emissions come from
3 coal burning plants, the average age of which is thirty-five years; and

4 **WHEREAS**, climatologist Dr. James Hansen concludes that immediate action is necessary to
5 reduce GHG emissions, and the first order of business should be to reject proposals for new
6 coal plants with closure of all coal plants pursued over the next two decades; and

7 **WHEREAS**, New Mexico possesses many Renewable Energy resources for leading the
8 country's transition to a low-carbon economy and can offer increased employment
9 opportunities for New Mexicans in a low-carbon economy, according to "The Economic
10 Benefits of Investing in Clean Energy", Political Economy Research Institute-University of
11 Massachusetts, Amherst & Center for American Progress, June 2009;

12
13 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of
14 Santa Fe County:

15 Section 1. That the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County recognizes the
16 urgency of stabilizing the climate and believes the Board should participate in this endeavor.

17 Section 2. That the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County urges the U.S.
18 Senate, and New Mexico's Senators in particular, pass federal legislation to protect the
19 climate and advance clean energy solutions before the next round of international climate
20 negotiations begin in December 2009. Legislation should meet the following standards to
21 maximize the environmental and economic benefits to New Mexicans:

- 22 (a) *Set Science-Based Targets & Timetables.* Emissions reduction targets and timetables
23 must meet scientifically-based requests demands for effectively curbing global
24 warming to prevent the dangerous impacts of worsening drought, increased wildfires,
25 rising temperatures, and the spread of disease. For the United States, total
26 greenhouse gas emissions should be reduced by at least 25% by 2020 (from 1990
27 levels) and at least 80% by 2050 (from 1990 levels). The U.S. should also establish
28 an enforceable declining emissions cap consistent with these targets.
29
- 30 (b) *Auction Emissions Permits.* Emissions permits should be auctioned or directed
31 toward public purposes and not be given away for free. The proceeds of auctions
32 represent a public resource and should be expended to achieve the highest public
33 good.
34
- 35 (c) *Pursue the Cheapest, Cleanest, Fastest, and Safest Solutions.* Revenues generated
36 from auctioning emissions permits should be invested in the highest-value solutions
37 for emissions reductions. Those include: improving the energy efficiency of new
38 homes and commercial buildings, raising the efficiency of existing buildings,
39 establishing a national Energy Efficiency Resource Standard, and directing any free
40 allowances to electric and natural gas utilities to pursue energy conservation and

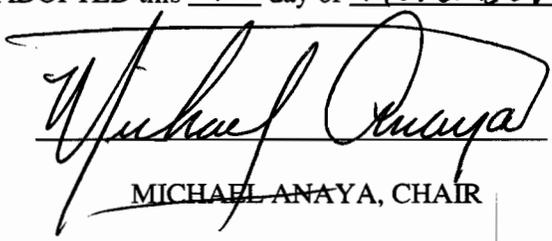
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efficiency. Clean, renewable energy sources – viz., solar, wind, and geothermal – should be developed through a national Renewable Energy Standard and offering long-term tax incentives and financing assistance for such development.

- (d) *Establish Mechanisms to Support Workers, Protect Communities, and Incentivize World Action.* Auction Emission Permit revenue should be distributed to (1) create new clean energy jobs, revitalize and retain jobs in existing industries, and ensure fair treatment for affected workers and their communities; and (2) assist low- and moderate-income households with rising energy costs, other economic impacts and provide energy-related assistance to communities in the U.S. The U.S. should further enact policies and provide incentives to encourage other countries to limit greenhouse gas emissions, including providing auction revenue to promote international technology transfer, and provide for climate border adjustment mechanisms to ensure imported products reflect the same environmental costs as products produced under domestic climate policy.
- (e) *Authority of the EPA to regulate emissions must not be curtailed.* The EPA should be allowed to continue to regulate coal plant emissions.

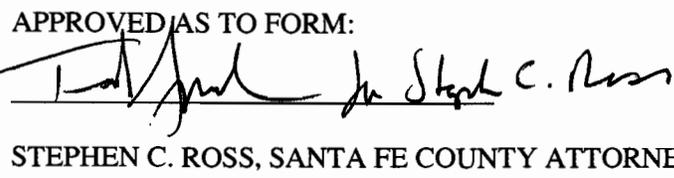
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be delivered to the members of the U.S. Senate, including Senators Bingaman and Udall.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 10 day of November, 2009.

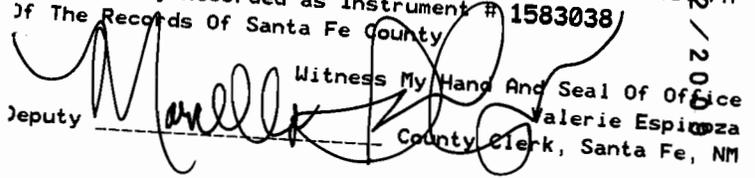

 MICHAEL ANAYA, CHAIR

ATTEST:

 VALERIE ESPINOZA, SANTA FE COUNTY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

 STEPHEN C. ROSS, SANTA FE COUNTY ATTORNEY



COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
 STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss
 BCC RESOLUTIONS
 PAGES: 3
 I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
 Record On The 12TH Day Of November, 2009 at 04:37:57 PM
 and Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1583038
 of The Records Of Santa Fe County
 Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
 Deputy  Valerie Espinoza
 County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

SFC CLERK RECORDED 11/12/2009