



BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Office of the Secretary
Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110
Telephone (505) 827-2855



RON CURRY
SECRETARY

CINDY PADILLA
DEPUTY SECRETARY

March 13, 2007
For Immediate Release

Contact: Marissa Stone, NMED Communications Director
Telephone: (505) 827-0314 or (505) 231-0475

New Mexico among Three States to Testify Thursday in Washington D.C. on States' Role on Climate Change

New Mexico Environment Department Secretary to Speak before U.S. House Subcommittee

(Santa Fe, NM) – New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry will testify before the U.S. House Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality of the House Commerce Committee in Washington, D.C. on Thursday concerning New Mexico's initiatives to combat climate change. Secretary Curry was invited to testify to highlight Governor Bill Richardson's efforts to combat climate change in New Mexico.

"Governor Richardson has made combating global climate change and making New Mexico the Clean Energy State two cornerstones of his administration," said NMED Secretary Ron Curry. "Governor Richardson's efforts on this issue – setting tough greenhouse gas reduction targets, becoming the first state to join the Chicago Climate Exchange, and, most recently, signing the Western Regional Climate Action Initiative – clearly show that states are gaining momentum in this fight. I will detail what New Mexico is doing with the hope the federal government will follow our lead."

Secretary Curry will join environmental department heads from New Jersey and California to highlight what states and local governments are doing to stop global warming. New Mexico and other states are taking action on the issue because of the lack of a strong national program to address climate change.

Secretary Curry will speak before the subcommittee at 11 a.m. eastern time **in room 2123, Rayburn House Office Building.**

Leaders from auto makers General Motors, Ford, DaimlerChrysler and Toyota will also testify before the subcommittee on Wednesday to review their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

New Mexico and other states are taking the lead in setting greenhouse gas reduction targets and finding ways to reduce emissions while maintaining economic growth. Governor Richardson signed tough greenhouse gas reduction targets, including a 75 percent cut in New Mexico's emissions by 2050. New Mexico was also the first state in the nation to join the Chicago Climate Exchange – a market-based cap-and-trade system – that includes Ford, DuPont and IBM.

Addressing climate change has not hindered New Mexico's economy. Governor Richardson created initiatives for New Mexico to lead on this issue in part because it is good for business. New Mexico utility companies are working on technologies to capture and reduce carbon dioxide emissions, which will also make the state a leader in the new carbon clean economy.

Governor Richardson issued an Executive Order in 2005 setting greenhouse emissions reduction targets for New Mexico. The goals are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to year 2000 levels by the year 2012, to reduce emissions 10 percent below 2000 levels by 2020 and 75 percent below 2000 levels by 2050.

Governor Richardson also established the New Mexico Climate Change Advisory Group, a diverse group of 40 stakeholders from industry, environmental groups and local and tribal governments. The group developed 69 greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategies to achieve the Governor's emissions reduction targets. The group voted unanimously on 67 of the recommendations.

In December 2006, Governor Richardson issued an Executive Order instructing state agencies to begin implementing a number of specific recommendations, including green building codes and agricultural sector emissions reductions. Governor Richardson signed legislation last week increasing the state's renewable portfolio standard (RPS) from 10 percent renewable energy required in 2011 to 15 percent by 2015 and 20 percent in 2020.

The Governor also signed into law a bill creating the Renewable Energy Transmission Authority, a quasi-governmental agency that will facilitate the transmission of renewable energy within the state and to markets outside New Mexico. In 2004, Governor Bill Richardson declared New Mexico "the Clean Energy State." The state enacted incentives like the renewable energy production tax incentives and a solar tax credit to help achieve that vision.

For more information, call NMED Communications Director Marissa Stone at (505) 827-0314 or (505) 231-0475.

###