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Environment Secretary Commends EIB Decision Allowing New Mexico to Regulate Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Decision Paves Way for Implementation of Western Climate Initiative

(Santa Fe, N.M.) New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry called the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board's decision today to allow the state to regulate greenhouse gas emissions a historic step for the state.

"The EIB's decision is key in our state's ongoing efforts to combat global warming and paves the way for New Mexico to begin implementing the Western Climate Initiative," Secretary Curry said. "Our state will continue to be a leader in promoting climate change initiatives. Greenhouse gas emissions must be regulated because of the adverse health impacts they create for residents and the environment."

The EIB concluded greenhouse gas emissions qualify as air pollutants under the New Mexico Air Quality Control Act and are subject to rulemaking by the board. The decision gives the board authority to establish regulations that allow for the trading of the greenhouse gas emissions credits and allows the EIB to hear a petition filed in December by New Energy Economy that proposes to limit those emissions in the state.

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