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## **Governor Richardson Directs Environment Secretary to Testify to Congress**

*Testimony to Highlight NM Efforts to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Pollution*

(SANTA FE, NM) -- Today Governor Richardson directed Environment Secretary Ron Curry to testify on Thursday before a U.S. Congressional Committee examining the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's approach in addressing greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants.

The U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform will review the EPA's approach in regulating greenhouse gas emissions in light of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision, *Massachusetts v. EPA*. That decision gave EPA the authority to regulate greenhouse gases as air pollutants.

"EPA has made no effort to initiate regulations or programs to enforce this new authority that will help combat climate change," Governor Richardson said. "New Mexico, however, recently established the authority to regulate its greenhouse gas emissions. It is ironic that the EPA sets forth Clean Air Act guidelines governing those emissions but fails to enforce them. Fortunately, New Mexico and other states are following those regulations. Our state will continue to take the lead in addressing global climate change---one of the most fundamental problems of our time."

"New Mexico recently adopted the one of nation's most comprehensive greenhouse gas emissions reporting rules," Secretary Curry said. "Those rules require the mandatory reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from certain industrial sectors starting with reporting year 2008."

Power plants built today could be around 50 years from now. The State of New Mexico's position is that EPA and the states must address greenhouse gas emissions from power plants now. EPA has not required the Best Available Control Technology (BACT) to reduce and capture those emissions. The state believes the EPA should make that technology a requirement for coal-fired power plants.

Greenhouse gas emissions are just as detrimental to the environment and public health as the standard EPA regulated pollutants from power plants. Those pollutants are sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxides and particulate matter.

Under the leadership of Governor Richardson, New Mexico is a leader among states in addressing climate change. Governor Richardson established tough state greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets of 2000 levels by the year 2012, 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 unanimously forwarded 67 of the recommendations to the Governor. The state will exceed the Governor's emissions reduction targets when it implements the group's recommendations.

**Secretary Curry will present his testimony at 10 a.m. ET, Thursday, November 8 in Room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, D.C.**

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