



February 27, 2003

TO: New Mexico House Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
FR: Howard Geller, Executive Director, Southwest Energy Efficiency Project  
John Nielsen, Energy Project Director, Land and Water Fund of the Rockies  
RE: House Bill 1025, Clean Energy Act

Dear Energy and Natural Resources Committee Members,

We are writing to express the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project's and Land and Water Fund of the Rockies' support for HB 1025, introduced by Representative James Madalena. The bill would establish a Clean Energy Fund through a very small surcharge on all retail electricity sales in the state. The Fund would be used to support energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in state and local government facilities, schools, higher educational institutions, and on Native American lands; low-income home weatherization; and low-income energy bill assistance. About 25 other states have adopted electricity bill surcharges to support these types of activities.

The Clean Energy Act will enable state and local governments as well as school districts to reduce their energy bills by funding projects that install energy-saving heating systems, appliances, lighting, and other building retrofits. Energy efficiency measures in schools can also improve comfort and make better use of natural lighting, which in turn can improve the learning environment and raise student performance.

The Clean Energy Act will support renewable energy projects in public buildings and on Native American reservations. Renewable energy technologies are environmentally friendly, conserve finite non-renewable energy sources and can help protect energy consumers from the economic risks of unexpected increases in the price of natural gas and other fossil fuels. They also support job creation in local communities and in the New Mexico economy.

Low-income households pay a disproportionately large share of their income for energy. The Clean Energy Act will expand energy bill assistance to low-income households at this critical time when the economy is in recession and consumers are facing rising fuel prices.

For these and other reasons, HB 1025 will benefit New Mexico and its citizens. We urge your support for HB 1025.

**About SWEEP:** The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP) is a public interest organization dedicated to advancing energy efficiency as a means of promoting both economic prosperity and environmental protection in the states of Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. For more information, visit the SWEEP website at [www.swenergy.org](http://www.swenergy.org).

**About the LAW Fund:** The Energy Project at the Land and Water Fund of the Rockies develops policies and markets to promote sustainable energy technologies in an environmentally and economically sound manner in a six-state region in the Interior West (Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming). For more information visit the LAW Fund website at [www.lawfund.org](http://www.lawfund.org).