



Southwest Energy Efficiency Project

March 14, 2003

TO: New Mexico Senate Conservation Committee Members
FR: Howard Geller, Executive Director, Southwest Energy Efficiency Project
RE: Senate Joint Memorial 89, Goals for Use of Renewable Energy

Dear Senate Conservation Committee Members:

I am writing to express the support of the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP) for Senate Joint Memorial 89, introduced by Senator Romero, and scheduled for hearing in front of the Senate Conservation Committee on Saturday, March 15, 2003. SJM 89 makes a strong economic and environmental case for the New Mexico state government to play a leadership role in moving New Mexico towards an energy efficiency and renewable energy future.

As a public interest organization focused on promoting energy efficiency in the Southwest, we have studied the economic and environmental benefits that would accrue to New Mexico should it pursue a proactive approach to energy efficiency. Such an approach, using off-the-shelf energy efficiency technologies, could reduce electricity demand by nearly 36% by 2020. With 86% of New Mexico's electricity generated by coal-fired power plants, such a reduction in electricity demand would significantly reduce power plant emissions; save 6.5 billion gallons of water per year by 2020 (equivalent to the average consumption of 36,000 households); and eliminate the need for five 500 megawatt power plants.

On the economic side, aggressively pursuing energy efficiency in New Mexico would save consumers and businesses \$2.8 billion during 2003-2020, at a benefit-cost ratio of about 4.3, and would create nearly 6,900 new jobs by 2020, above the jobs not created due to the need for fewer power plants.

In regards to energy efficiency, I would like to suggest one addition to the proposed memorial. The following language should be added at the end of line 9, page 3: "that electricity use per capita in New Mexico be reduced at least ten percent by 2010 through new energy efficiency policies and programs." This language establishes an achievable energy efficiency goal that will complement and support the renewable energy goal called out in the memorial.

The potential for energy efficiency and renewable energy in New Mexico is tremendous. A focus on both is a win for all New Mexicans. I strongly urge you to support SJM 89.

Thank you for your consideration.

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.