

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Letters

Lawmakers Did the Right Thing

NEW MEXICO INTERFAITH Power & Light (NMIPL) and its more than 100 member and faith communities throughout New Mexico are grateful to Reps. Ben Ray Lujan, Martin Heinrich and Harry Teague for voting in favor of the historic American Clean Energy and Security Act.

This legislation, which combines a declining cap on global warming pollution with support for renewable energy standards and incentives for improving energy efficiency, will help build a new clean-energy economy that will have major benefits for our state, with its concentration of scientific expertise and its vast wind, solar and geothermal resources.

Those who opposed the bill and deplore its passage are simply in denial. The reality of global warming is no longer a matter of dispute among reputable scientists, and its effects are already visible. The rest of the developed world, even China, is far ahead of the United States in creating new industries based on clean energy and green jobs, and the American Clean Energy and Security Act is our first belated step toward catching up.

In addition, for people of faith, climate change is not just a political, scientific or economic issue — it is an urgent moral issue of concern to all who believe we have a responsibility to be good stewards of the earth and to preserve our planet for generations to come. That is why we wish publicly to thank the N.M. Congressional delegation for doing the right thing and standing up for God's Creation.

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