



January 30, 2018

Constituents of District Eight  
Counties of Colfax, Guadalupe,  
Harding, Mora, Quay, San Miguel, Taos

Dear Constituents:

During the interim, leading up to this 30-day session, the Legislative Finance Committee (chaired by Representative Patricia Lundstrom) spent a lot of time focusing on priorities that will boost public safety, education, health, economic development and job growth. Other issues of importance to me include: improving services to veterans, early childhood education, fixing water reservoirs (dams) and solving related water issues, caring for our elderly and those who need help caring for themselves, making gradual changes to modernize and simplify our tax system, and providing resources to improve the infrastructure in our communities.

It's important to accentuate the positive, remain grateful for and keep improving upon what we have! For example: In Las Vegas we are home to major education, government and Mainstreet entities; Raton has the Miner's Hospital; Santa Rosa has the Guadalupe County Correctional Facility and Rock Lake Fish Hatchery, Rearing Station and Educational Center; Angel Fire has the National Vietnam Memorial and Cemetery; Mora has Morphy Dam, Lake and State Park; and, Springer has the New Mexico Woman's Correctional Facility. These community cornerstones and many others produce a steady stream of public funds that sustain jobs, facilities, and quality in our human purpose.

The \$292 million revenue projection increase presented before the Senate Finance Committee on Thursday, January 25, 2018, is a positive sign New Mexico's economy is improving. Some of the recommended uses for these funds are: increasing the State Equalization Guarantee (SEG) to focus more resources in the classroom and on student instruction; and, salary increases for teachers, state employees, law enforcement officers, and guards at privately operated correctional facilities.

These efforts speak volumes by local advocates who have made their voices heard to ensure jobs, community development, and tourist and visitor promotion remain on the uptick.

Additionally, it is imperative the State of New Mexico maintain reasonable reserves in the range of 8 to 10% in case of a catastrophic emergency which may occur caused by a lack of snowfall, an abrupt downturn in the economy caused by low oil and gas revenues, and to keep a strong bond rating which keeps the cost of bonding funds in demand and competitive.

When we work together, serve the needs of our communities responsibly and plan for our future, upcoming generations will ultimately be the benefactors.

Siempre,

Pete Campos, EdD