

New Mexico State Senate

State Capitol
Santa Fe

SENATOR PETE CAMPOS

D-Colfax, Guadalupe, Harding, Mora,
Quay, San Miguel & Taos-8

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February 14, 2017

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

Dear Honorable Constituents:

This 60-day legislative session has been a first in many ways. There are new senators and new representatives, several new committee chairs and even new legislative leaders. I was privileged to participate before the session in the New Member Orientation and shared with the new members my thoughts about the decorum and process of the New Mexico Legislature and in particular, the New Mexico Senate.

I was impressed with the intelligence and professionalism of the new members. Most importantly, I know that each of them cares deeply about the people of New Mexico.

Our state is experiencing great change, including a much more moderate budget than in the recent past, new priorities to keep our youth in New Mexico and reforms that will add to a more transparent, accountable and resilient state. You may be thinking, "How can I help to improve our state?" Well, I think it's something we can do together. Talk to your family and friends, inspire them to do their best at whatever they do and encourage them to keep a positive approach so they can accomplish their hopes and goals.

Times may be difficult and there may be many hurdles to overcome, but we can achieve much if we persist with consistency and strength. This approach will help us through the tough times and strengthen our faith in ourselves and what we can accomplish when we never give up!

I enjoy researching public policy issues and sharing my thoughts and those of others. If you would like to read some of my writings, please go to petecampos.com. When we share our ideas and experiences, trust and communicate with each other, behave ethically and exhibit patience, we lead by example and we can expect many great things to happen for our families, friends and neighbors.

Siempre,

Pete Campos, EdD

COMMITTEES:

MEMBER:

- Committees' Committee
- Finance

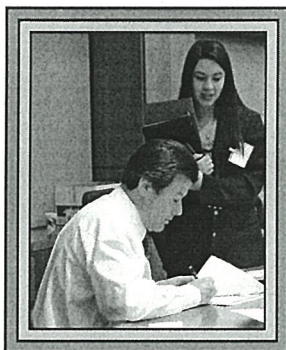
INTERIM COMMITTEES:

MEMBER:

- Legislative Finance Committee
- Committee on Compacts
- Interim Legislative Ethics Committee
- Investments & Pensions Oversight Committee
- Jobs Council

ADVISORY MEMBER:

- Legislative Council
- Water & Natural Resources Committee



Attachment: Letter to President Trump
Op-Ed Water is a Priority



New Mexico State Senate

STATE CAPITOL

Santa Fe 87501

February 6, 2017

Via email: www.whitehouse.gov/contact/#page

Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We have followed your intent to improve our nation's infrastructure. We realize the needs are great and the resources available must be spread among aging infrastructures. We respectfully ask that you include the following rehabilitation projects in your effort to improve the country's infrastructure, which serves the health, safety and well-being of Americans.

1. Bradner Dam, San Miguel County, NM;
2. James Wallace Park Power Dam, Santa Rosa, NM;
3. Morphy Lake Dam, Mora County, NM;
4. Eagle Nest Dam, Colfax County, NM;
5. Lake Maloya Dam, Colfax County, NM;
6. Springer Lake Dam, Colfax County, NM;
7. Ute Lake Dam, Logan, NM;
8. Clayton Lake Dam, Union County, NM;
9. Arch Hurley Conservancy District Canal Lining, Quay and San Miguel counties, NM;
10. acequias, or community irrigation canals, in New Mexico; and
11. the Eastern New Mexico Water Authority Ute Pipeline.

These projects are important and integral to the domestic and agricultural water use of northeastern New Mexico, New Mexico in general and the State of Texas. If improvements are not completed within the next decade, there could be tragic loss of life as well as harm to strategic water storage and management systems that sustain our American way of life.

Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
February 6, 2017
Page Two

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature of Pete Campos, featuring a large, sweeping loop at the beginning and a horizontal line across the middle.

PETE CAMPOS
State Senator, District 8

A handwritten signature of Pat Woods, written in a cursive style with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

PAT WOODS
State Senator, District 7

PC/PW:dw

Water — Always a Priority

By Senator Pete Campos

I first began to learn about the value of water from my grandfather, who was a public works director in Santa Rosa. Later, as a chamber of commerce president, I learned more about and began to really push for the effective use of water. It is no secret that we live in the desert, and that water here is scarce. We need it: from our bathrooms and kitchens to our livestock, acequias, wildlife and recreation. Still, it is easy enough to turn on the faucet, see water come out and forget how precious it is. Here in northeastern New Mexico, this is especially true: many communities in our corner of the state struggle to meet their water demands. Of course, there are ways to make the most of it: planning; development of regional or community-sized water projects; conservation; and collaboration are all approaches we employ regularly to stretch our supply. They are important steps. However, there is no silver bullet when it comes to water policy — no single policy or project will alleviate our concerns. Over the past several years, we have made tremendous progress, and we will continue to push sound policy at all levels. Still, the simple fact is that water will always be in short supply in northeastern New Mexico. There are ways for us to make the most of the water we do have, though.

First, we must maintain and eventually upgrade our aging water infrastructure. This means everything from pipes in the systems that deliver water to our homes, to fixing a leaky sink in the bathroom. Leaks at every level of the water delivery system account for a significant amount of loss, and while some fixes will be expensive, others are fairly simple. We must repair dams on the reservoirs that hold our water supplies, for safety's sake as well as supply. This is especially true in northeastern New Mexico: almost half of the dams listed by the Office of the State Engineer as having a pressing need for rehabilitation are in this corner of the state. With that in mind, it is worth noting that resources have been secured to improve dams near Las Vegas, Springer, Santa Rosa and Mora. In addition to dams, there is a need to support community water infrastructure in each community in northeastern New Mexico.

Also, it is important to keep in mind that wastewater systems are equally as important as delivery systems. Here's why: it only takes one problematic wastewater system, be it a leaky

sewer line or an overflowing septic tank, to contaminate drinking water and make our short supply of water even shorter.

I mentioned that some of the fixes we must make to our water and wastewater systems will be expensive. That's true, and I realize that financial times are tough — for families, for cities and counties and yes, for the state of New Mexico. However, that cannot be an excuse not to devote at least some funding to water projects. If water truly is as important as we all say it is, it is time to put our money where our mouths are and dedicate some funding to water projects, particularly in northeastern New Mexico.

While on the subject of funding, I want to take a moment to discuss capital outlay. Acknowledged, the capital outlay process is an important one, and while I am committed to securing as much funding as I can for communities in Senate District 8, it cannot be the only money we depend on to fund water projects. All too often, legislative committees are told of a community whose well dried up or that finds itself with some other dire infrastructure need because application process for state and federal funding was too cumbersome and instead chased "free" capital outlay money, only to find that funding was not enough to complete the project. There are numerous federal and state funding sources for water and wastewater projects, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, New Mexico Finance Authority and the Water Trust Board. Complicated application processes can no longer be an acceptable excuse for not seeking funding for our projects.

In order to make the most of whatever funding we can secure, careful planning and prioritization of projects have to take place. I believe that development of consistent criteria for prioritization of water projects is the next logical step on that front. The reality is that not all projects can be funded at once, and that some are going to have to wait while other projects are completed. Consistent criteria should ensure that every project gets taken care of, though. Projects must also be sufficiently planned, so that they are indeed shovel-ready once funding is secured. We can no longer afford to have funding sit unused because projects were not ready.

In addition to project planning, regional water plans, which will help us administer our water, must be completed. This process is already under way. It needs to continue from planning through implementation.

There are other steps we can begin taking now to ensure the most efficient use of our water. Some will require significant funding, others less so. For example, adjudication of water rights is critical and must be completed in all corners of New Mexico. It will be difficult to administer our water without knowing how much each user is entitled to. Funding that process is something of a bargain, too, compared to other projects. Conservation efforts also need to continue. Use of effluent for golf courses and sports fields, which occurs at the Gene Torres Golf Course and Las Vegas City Public School District, should be considered as an option in still more communities.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we must work together to address our water needs. Collaboration, communication and negotiation are critical if we are to meet our diverse water needs. In times of shortage, we have to find ways to share what we do have. This is true in our corner of the state, but it's also true for all New Mexicans.