

City of Las Vegas, New Mexico

Resolution # 10-27

Recognizing that energy security and climate change are urgent crises that demand immediate action and the time remaining to reduce risks is limited, and recognizing the role that the City of Las Vegas, New Mexico can play in addressing these risks.

WHEREAS, Global climate change, caused by the build-up of manmade greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere, is already disrupting ecosystems, and the climate-linked effects in New Mexico include declines in snowpack, earlier peak stream flows, forest fires, and population declines in sensitive species<sup>i</sup>; and

WHEREAS, A growing number of scientists now believe that the recommendation made by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to reduce carbon emissions by 25-40% below 1990 levels was too conservative and even more stringent reductions are required to avoid abrupt, catastrophic, and runaway climate change; and;

WHEREAS, If nothing is done to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, New Mexico could experience some \$3.2 billion in associated costs -- caused primarily by wildfires, drought, and health-impacts<sup>ii</sup>;and

WHEREAS, The longer we wait to confront the problem and adopt effective emission reduction policies, the more costly climate change will be for everyone, especially New Mexicans; and

WHEREAS, Capping carbon can help jump-start the New Mexico economy and help spur clean energy production throughout New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Senators Maria Cantwell and Susan Collins — a Democrat from Washington and a Republican from Maine — recently introduced climate change legislation, called the CLEAR Act. This cap and dividend bi-partisan bill (S.2877) is easy to understand, predictable, achievable and avoids new complex carbon trading schemes; and

WHEREAS, the CLEAR Act has an honest and practical approach architecture that: (1) sets a firm, predictable and economy-wide cap on carbon emissions, (2) charges fossil fuel producers for these permits at competitive auctions, and (3) protects consumers and small businesses by returning 75% of the income from carbon permit sales to all Americans in

equal annual checks. The other 25% is invested in the Clean Energy Reinvestment Trust Fund (CERT) to be spent on programs such as reforestation, agriculture, energy efficiency, weatherization, and clean energy that can produce investment in Las Vegas.

BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Las Vegas, New Mexico that in the interest of humanity, to confer optimum health, safety, comfort and economic and social well-being on our inhabitants and for the protection of this and future generations and the prevention of injury to those who cannot protect themselves:

Section 1. That the City of Las Vegas recognizes the urgency of stabilizing the climate, believes that the City of Las Vegas has a part to play in this endeavor.

Section 2. That the City of Las Vegas supports the bi-partisan bill, the CLEAR Act (S.2877), to cap greenhouse gas emissions. The legislation not only meets the environmental beautification and economic improvement standards that are key components in maximizing the social, environmental and economic benefits to the citizens of Las Vegas, but also provides critical pocketbook protection to our households.

Section 3. That the City of Las Vegas recognizes the benefits for New Mexico of a cap on carbon emissions and they include: (1) the creation of a clear policy signal for investment in clean technologies; (2) positioning New Mexico businesses to take advantage of a low-carbon economy; (3) unleashing the ingenuity of New Mexicans in developing technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which will be needed throughout the world as nations seek to mitigate climate change; (4) providing New Mexico with a competitive advantage over states that choose not to act to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

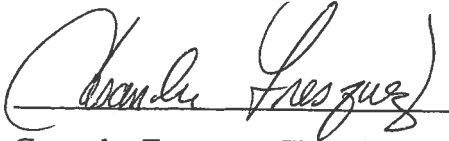
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS, NEW MEXICO, that copies of this resolution be delivered to Senators Bingaman and Udall, Congressmen Lujan, Teague and Heinrich.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this 21 day of April, 2010.



Mayor Alfonso E. Ortiz, Jr.

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Casandra Fresquez", is written over a horizontal line.

Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk

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<sup>i</sup> A Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment For Biodiversity In New Mexico, Part II: Conservation Implications of Emerging Moisture Stress due to Recent Climate Changes in New Mexico. Enquist, C. and Gori, D., The Nature Conservancy, December 2008.

<sup>ii</sup> An Overview of Potential Economic Costs to New Mexico of a Business-As-Usual Approach to Climate Change., Doppelt, Bob, University of Oregon, Program on Climate Economics of the Climate Leadership Initiative, February 2009.