



NATURAL RESOURCES LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2008

League of Women Voters of New Mexico

The League of Women Voters believes that natural resources should be managed as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems.

Resource Conservation: The League supports a strong state resource conservation policy to conserve our land, water and air. The state should make planning expertise available to the local communities and work with them in identifying problems and choosing solutions. As we grow and further develop resources in the state, the State must accept a major responsibility for helping to secure and preserve New Mexico's natural heritage and educate its citizens.

The League supports:

- *Implementation of recommendations of the NM Climate Change Advisory Group*
- *A process that minimizes damages due to the extraction of minerals that considers the value of all natural and cultural resources that might be affected*

Water: New Mexico is a semi-arid state with finite ground and surface water resources. Unmet needs for water are increasing as the state becomes more urbanized and other beneficial uses such as recreation, fish and wildlife have no entitlement to water. Long-range, regional planning is essential.

The League supports:

- *Regional water planning*
- *Assistance to both individuals and communities in the adjudication of water rights*

Clean and Efficient Energy: The League favors reliance on renewable resources, emphasizing the environmentally sound use of energy resources, energy conservation measures, the reduction of energy demand and minimization of the need for new generating capacity, and assistance for local communities and low-income individuals to provide assistance in implementing these policies.

The League supports:

- *Increasing the efficiency of energy use in both private and public construction, through the use of green building techniques, improvement of public transportation systems coupled with the reduction of sprawl, and support for weatherization of existing buildings*
- *Development of New Mexico's abundant renewable energy resources*

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