

United States Senate

March 25, 2010

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Dirksen SOB 133
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Hart SOB 125
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial Services
and General Government
Dirksen SOB 133
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Financial Services
and General Government
Hart SOB 125
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Inouye, Vice Chair Cochran, Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Collins:

As your Subcommittee begins to mark-up the Financial Services and General Government fiscal year 2011 appropriations bill, I respectfully request your attention to the following projects that are very important to New Mexico. The need for financial and government assistance remains high in New Mexico. Because of New Mexico's vast geography and high poverty rates, many rural, border, and tribal communities lack sufficient resources to meet the basic needs and provide essential government services to their populations.

Financial Services and General Government

Small Business Administration

ACCENT: Adelante Congressional Comprehensive Employment Network and Training
Adelante, Inc.
Albuquerque, NM
\$750,000

Funding would be used to provide employment opportunities for people with physical and mental disabilities through a small business model that offers document imaging services to medical, financial, and legal clients. This project will both create new jobs for individuals with disabilities and provide opportunities to increase their independence and community participation. Expansion into the document imaging arena may create additional jobs in document shredding and recycling, which is Adelante's core service area.

City of Roswell Cultural Center Parking Lot

City of Roswell
Roswell, NM
\$300,000

Construction of a parking structure to provide additional parking for the Visitor's Center, Civic

Center, and Roswell Museum & Art Center. It also provides for renovations to the current river retaining walls. This project will eliminate conditions which are detrimental to health, safety, and public welfare.

Cumbres & Toltec Railroad Visitor's Center

Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad Commission

Chama, New Mexico

\$3,000,000

For the construction for a visitor's center for the Cumbres & Toltec railroad. More than 43,000 visitors ride the railroad every year and the proposed improvements will provide for a space to give visitors background information before riding the train, or for them to learn more about the railroads during the off season. The increased tourism and job creation involved with the railroad project are in the taxpayers' interest.

Earthship Biotechure Visitors Center

County of Taos

Taos, NM

\$400,000

The Taos County Office of Community Development in collaboration with Michael Reynolds, proposes to recycle tires to be utilized for the purpose of constructing an Earthship Biotechure Visitors Center and Overlook, utilizing scrap tires, recycled material along with uses for green construction, landscaping and recreational projects. This would be the first green building innovative civil engineering and construction projects of this type ever attempted in the State.

El Zócalo Restoration

Sandoval County

Bernalillo, NM

\$300,000

To provide for the restoration/construction of the Señá Building which is part of El Zócalo Economic Development Complex. These structures are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Also provides other site improvements that include security fencing/gates, landscaping and public restrooms. The increased tourism and job creation involved with the project are in the taxpayers' interest.

Energy Business Park

Village of Questa

Questa, NM

\$500,000

Village of Questa proposes to complete the infrastructure to its business park in order to house a solar array for energy generation; house manufacturing facility for Kit Carson Electric's solar project; and serve as a northern location for other alternative energy projects as part of the state's alternative energy strategies. The increased business and job creation involved with the project and the focus on renewable energy are in the taxpayers' interest.

Ft. Bayard Trauma Restorative Center

Grant County

Silver City, NM

\$300,000

The Trauma Restorative Center, to be housed in the old Ft. Bayard facility, will offer individual and group services in an outpatient setting that will offer integrative healing treatments for female and male veterans. The treatment for these wounded heroes and increased business and job creation involved with the project are in the taxpayers' interest.

Jal Industrial Complex

City of Jal

Jal, NM

\$350,000

To provide for renovations to an existing industrial complex. Renovations will include roof repairs, HVAC installation, electrical system upgrades, and window, ceiling tile, floor replacement. The renovated facility will be utilized as an industrial complex to attract new businesses to the City of Jal. The attraction of new businesses will result in the creation of new jobs, increased tax revenue and increased private sector investment.

Kachina Property Redevelopment/ Business Incubator

City of Gallup

Gallup, NM

\$300,000

The program will provide access to affordable commercial or retail space, which typically poses the greatest threat to a new business's cash flow. This project would also provide these fledgling organizations with the technical support they need to survive during the tenuous early stages of development. The increased business opportunity will strengthen the local economy and encourage job creation.

Mora Valley Spinning Mill

Mora Valley Spinning Mill

Mora, NM

\$200,000

Will assist farmers and ranchers by purchasing fiber directly from them, the wool and fiber producers, and identify a national market for the yarn, knitting, and weaving created by the artists who use the spinning mill. The mill has the capability of producing up to 200 pound of yarn a day. The increased business opportunity will strengthen the local economy and encourage job creation.

National Museum of Nuclear Science & History Expansion & Updates

National Museum of Nuclear Science & History

Albuquerque, NM

\$150,000

This is the only museum designated by Congress regarding nuclear science, enacted 1991. Construction of a new building began in April 2009, however it remains incomplete due to funding. Will recreate the public face of the building, make the outside wheelchair accessible, and relocate external historical aircraft artifacts to the new museum site. The increased business

and job creation involved with the project are in the taxpayers' interest.

New Mexico's Veteran's Museum

New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs

Las Cruces, NM

\$400,000

For construction of the New Mexico Veteran's Museum. The museum will provide a tribute to the service of past and current veterans while telling the story of the state's important and unique history in the U.S. military. The creation of new jobs and increased tax revenue as well as the protection of these important stories will be in the taxpayers' interest.

New Mexico Youth Entrepreneurship Network

Regional Development Corporation

Santa Fe, NM

\$105,000

Youth entrepreneurship education is a tool to teach children how to compete in the 21st century global economy and leads to new business start-ups. The positive educational and economic development impacts will be in the taxpayers' interest.

Northern New Mexico Network Facilitation Initiative

Regional Development Corporation

Santa Fe, NM

\$104,900

To provide technical and financial assistance to a regional network of community-based Network Facilitation projects. The projects located in Española, Las Vegas, Santa Fe, and Taos provide free, confidential outreach and consultative support to entrepreneurs. The positive community and economic development impacts will be in the taxpayers' interest.

Northern New Mexico Regional Broadband

Santa Fe County

Santa Fe, NM

\$500,000

To provide broadband in the Northern Region of New Mexico including Taos, Rio Arriba, Los Alamos, and Santa Fe Counties. This will provide for a backbone to provide broadband access to rural and remote areas. The job creation and information access that this will provide to the public will be in the taxpayers' interest.

Regional Economic Development Initiative

Regional Development Corporation

Santa Fe, NM

\$102,000

To implement a comprehensive development program in Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, and Taos Counties. To assess and share professional economic development services between counties to collaborate on projects of common interest. The job creation and information access that this will provide to the public will be in the taxpayers' interest.

Rural Entrepreneurship and Business Incubation

New Mexico State University Arrowhead Center

Las Cruces, NM

\$500,000

This project will allow NMSU to foster sustainable job creation through entrepreneurship initiatives and small business incubation in rural counties and communities in New Mexico. All types of businesses and entrepreneurial concepts will be promoted, with special emphasis on "green economy" start-ups in rural communities. The increased business and job creation involved with the project are in the taxpayers' interest.

Sandoval County Broadband Expansion Project

County of Sandoval

Jemez & Zia Pueblos, NM

\$150,000

Broadband access has become increasingly essential to the successful growth of industry, healthcare, and educational systems. However, there is a distinct lack of reliable, high-speed access in the rural areas of Sandoval County, New Mexico. The expansion of an existing carrier-class, licensed microwave network backbone into the Jemez Pueblo and Zia Pueblo region is a wise use of taxpayer dollars understanding this backbone will provide direct and immediate benefits to the County schools, health facilities, government entities, libraries, and public safety organizations. The increased business and job creation involved with the project are in the taxpayers' interest.

Santa Fe Business Campaign for Home Ownership

Homewise, Inc.

Santa Fe, NM

\$500,000

Funds will be used to (a) capitalize the Workforce Housing Assistance Fund, and (b) maintain and expand the impact of the Santa Fe Business Campaign for Homeownership. Working in partnership with local employers is a key strategy to both leveraging local funds for the Workforce Housing Assistance Fund, and to creating successful homeowners. The total investment of \$1.5 million will create 300 new homeowners, generating \$10 million in revenue (through increased local spending) for Santa Fe's economy every year. The increased business and job creation involved with the project are in the taxpayers' interest.

South Valley Economic Development Center Phase II

South Valley Economic Development Center

Albuquerque, NM

\$150,000

This project will complete the South Valley Economic Development Center's business incubator Phase II initial planning and research, designed to create jobs in the agricultural sector by increasing support of local agri-business through the construction of a manufacturing and agricultural space. The space will operate in direct support of the existing commercial kitchen, local social entrepreneurs, and the small businesses incorporated within that kitchen, as well as supporting sustainable agricultural research. The increased business and job creation involved with the project are in the taxpayers' interest.

Taos Pueblo Village Restoration & Preservation

Taos Pueblo

Taos, NM

\$500,000

Funds from this Appropriation will be used to reverse deterioration that is threatening the very existence of the millennium-old structures in its traditional village. This will be achieved through major planning, restoration and preservation activities to take place over a three-year period, beginning in October 2010. Taos Pueblo, in north central New Mexico, is the only living Native American community in the United States to be designated both a World Heritage Site and a National Historic Landmark. The increased tourism, job creation, and preservation of this historic site are in the taxpayers' interest.

Tatum Municipal Building

City of Tatum

Tatum, NM

\$135,000

To provide for a renovation to change the existing roof from flat to pitched. It would be of the best interest to the public as the roofing is unsafe and outdated. The building houses many municipal services that the general public uses day to day.

Government Services Administration

Santa Teresa Port of Entry

State of New Mexico

Santa Teresa, NM

\$3,000,000

For the construction of two additional lanes for border crossings and associated inspection booths in order to alleviate the long wait times and facilitate efficient processing of all border crossings.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has a pecuniary interest in any of the congressionally directed spending items that I have requested, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule ULIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate. I further certify that I have posted a description of the items requested on my official website, along with the accompanying justification.

Sincerely,


Jeff Bingaman
U.S. Senator