

February 23, 2009

Dear Legislator:

As the full amount of the New Mexico budget shortfall for FY 2009 becomes evident and state lawmakers hear similar grim projections for FY 2010, we the undersigned organizations implore legislators to consider alternate and innovative plans for generating funds to pay for such crucial state expenses as social services, health care programs, public education, arts and public employee salaries and benefits.

We ask this because we honestly believe that the shortfall we are currently facing in New Mexico has resulted largely from a revenue crisis, not a spending one. Past opportunities to generate significant monies for the state have been overlooked or dismissed as not politically viable.

Therefore, we respectfully ask that the State Legislature, Lt. Governor Diane Denish and Governor Bill Richardson vigorously research and pursue alternative scenarios including, but not limited to:

- TIDD reform to protect against the erosion of city, county and state general funds
- Mandating combined reporting of corporate income taxes
- Rolling back some or all of the huge personal income tax cuts for the wealthy
- Enacting a temporary personal income tax surtax on incomes over a certain level
- Modernizing the 1930's-era penalties imposed on oil and gas pollution

These additional sources would generate the hundreds of millions of dollars in additional revenue needed to avoid harmful cuts to education, health care, public safety, and vital state services during this painful economic time.

Sincerely,

Sharon Morgan  
President  
NEA New Mexico

Andrew Padilla  
President  
AFSCME Council 18

Cristine Trujillo  
President  
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President  
Albuquerque Fiber Arts Council

IATSE Local 480