



The
Climate Change Leadership Institute

December 9, 2024

Demis Foster, CEO & President
Conservation Voters New Mexico
PO Box 636
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Dear Ms. Foster,

We are heartened to present Conservation Voters New Mexico (CVNM) with this year's Direct Action Climate Leadership Award for decisively mobilizing to the polls people whom care about the climate and protecting the environment and for helping win this latest consequential statewide election on behalf of advancing the common good.

While New Mexico voters, amidst a national wave against incumbency, returned to office all five US Senate and House of Representative officials all proven in safeguarding our air, land and water, 28 out of 33 candidates endorsed by CVNM Action Fund won contested statewide races (not to mention the favorable outcome of races which were uncontested). These outstanding accomplishments, which bucked the national trend, underscore the vital importance of CVNM's mission and herald what your Vice President of Programs Gerald Peters said that "New Mexicans want bold action on climate change and the protection of our democracy...Now is the time for state leaders to seize the moment and lead the next wave of policy action to address the[se] most urgent issues of our time."

The Direct Action Award is given to those who take after the legacy of John Lewis and the Civil Rights Movement, ideals revived today in his namesake Voting Rights Act and the critical call for climate justice. When we dwell on the recent national election and it's devastating impact on climate action, it's helpful to heed the wisdom of John Lewis when he said: "Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month, or a year, it is the struggle of a lifetime. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble." CVNM is doing the work of a lifetime by registering people to vote, advocating for better policies, connecting the ballot box to climate leadership & strengthening our democracy in the Land of Enchantment.

Thank you and the CVNM team for your excellent, crucial and hopeful work!

Most sincerely,

Robb Hirsch
Founder and Executive Director