



December 5, 2011

Mr. Robb Hirsch
Executive Director
Climate Change Leadership Institute
911 Stagecoach Rd.
Santa Fe, NM 87501

RE: Innovation and Justice Award

Dear Mr. Hirsch:

I am writing to express my sincere thanks for CCLI's thoughtfulness in awarding the Pueblo of Jemez its Innovation and Justice Award for 2011. Greg Kaufman, our Natural Resources Department Director, accepted it on behalf of the Pueblo and presented it to me as Governor. It was a proud moment and I am grateful for the recognition.

I am the most recent of several Governors to oversee the development of renewable energy resources found on our lands. We are blessed with ample solar, biomass, and geothermal energy and we see these resources as a culturally compatible means toward economic development and, potentially, economic self-sufficiency. The U.S. Dept of Energy and the New Mexico Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department have been our funding partners in these endeavors. We have also benefitted greatly by generous contributions of work from Red Mountain Energy Partners, our financial and engineering consultants on these projects, as well as our attorneys at VanAmberg, Rogers, Yepa, Abeita & Gomez, in Santa Fe and Michael Best & Friedrich in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Our geothermal exploration project, which will drill two wells more than a mile deep into what our project geologists forecast is a substantial hot water resource beneath the Pueblo, is making excellent progress. Funding for this project has been provided by DOE and drilling should start in a few weeks. Our biomass project, which will convert our 11,000 sq. ft. Walatowa Visitors Center from propane to wood fired boiler heat is also on track. Our solar project, which would be capable of generating 4 MW of photovoltaic solar power, is poised for construction, however, we have not been able to contract with a buyer for that energy. I think this is a reflection of the political realities in New Mexico presently as well as symptomatic of tribal renewable energy projects across the country.

Office of the Governor

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Many tribal projects such as ours are developed in remote locations where the number of potential power consumers and utilities are few. It is also often the case that the largest power consumer in these areas is a federal facility; a military installation, a national lab, a public lands management agency, etc. We are hopeful that our efforts to develop commercial-scale solar energy on our tribal lands inspires certain policy changes in the federal government which would result in greater federal consumption of tribally-generated renewable energy. The DOE estimates that there is enough solar energy on tribal land nationwide to power the entire country several times over. Add in wind, biomass, geothermal, and other renewables, and it becomes clear that tribes have the means to transform our nation's reliance on fossil fuel energy. This could start with the federal government itself, which consumes massive amounts of fossil fuel energy each year. There is no doubt that tribes have the capacity to develop and maintain these renewable projects and we hope to prove that with our own projects.

We are very proud to have received CCLI's 2011 Innovation and Justice award. Thank you again for this esteemed recognition.

Sincerely,



Michael Toledo, Jr.
Governor

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