

February 1, 2006

## 15 Day Letter from Senator Pete Campos

Dear Friends:

First of all, I hope this letter finds you in good health. This past year has been a difficult one for me and my family. My mother-in-law, Agripina "Pina" Ludi, who showed unconditional faith and great courage as she battled an extended illness, passed away on Sunday, January 29, 2006. Lori, my wife, has dealt with health issues originating from the brain tumor removed about five years ago. Even though we have struggled through these family plights, our lives have been filled with many simple and precious moments that have made our lives well worth living.

That being said, this 30-day session has been a roller coaster ride with well intentioned proposals to craft a five billion dollar operational budget and a one billion dollar capital outlay package. Although that may seem like a large sum for a small state with a 1.9 million population, it is not, and the resources can be allocated quickly while making just a small dent in the state's needs. For example: A] just making cost of living adjustments (COLA), increasing public safety and teacher salaries and opening the government's doors next fiscal year absorbs most existing and new money available; and, B] it has been estimated that there are more than fourteen billion dollars worth of very basic capital outlay needs just to bring our state and local infrastructure and public buildings to a reasonable level that meets adequate occupation, health and safety standards and minimum code compliance. So wisely distributing these finances will require a delicate balance and the experience of key lawmakers on both the House and Senate Finance Committees.

I remain very optimistic that the legislature, working closely with Governor Richardson, can craft effective budget and capital outlay bills. Life has a renewed meaning for me. That is to apply every ounce of my energy to never give up and always give life my best. Can you imagine if we all lived by this credo? If we did, our collective energy, intelligence and drive would take us to new heights never before imagined.

May the time leading up to Valentine's Day be filled with love, compassion and understanding for each other and may we ultimately achieve our goals and ambitions.

Siempre,

Pete Campos

