



New Mexico State Senate

State Capitol
Santa Fe

COMMITTEES:

MEMBER:
• Finance

CHAIRMAN:
• Capital Outlay Subcommittee

SENATOR PETE CAMPOS

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Constituents of District 8

Counties of

Guadalupe, Mora, San Miguel, Santa Fe, Torrance



Dear Constituents:

This legislative session was heart wrenching! Economic reports indicated a mixed picture going into 2010. Job declines continue, unemployment is extraordinarily high, state and education employees consistently argue against spending cuts while small business persons and private sector workers argue against raising taxes. The debate was non-stop and we worked to strike a balance between tax increases and budget cuts, all while working toward an efficient and lean balanced budget. Now it is time for all of us to closely evaluate and scrutinize government, recommend changes to cut spending and return to the core services that the public needs, expects and deserves. *The task is daunting but it must be done!*

On a more upbeat note, by more fully understanding our economic situation and by working together, we will recover! It is imperative that we return our focus to the education of our children, the caring of our elders, supporting local businesses, getting along with each other and boosting morale. We are resilient, every new day brings opportunity and I am confident there is *rejuvenated hope* for vibrancy within our communities.

We must look toward "our future" and put the strategies in place to strengthen our role as a largely government serving area. Along with the regular public services that we provide, there are also significant projects that if fully approved will stimulate the regional construction industry. Once complete, these projects will serve the health, education, public safety and economic development of our senate district and region. These projects and the amounts supported by the legislature and awaiting approval by the governor include: \$7 million through our Severance Tax Bond bill to start our new long term care facility at the Behavioral Health Institute in Las Vegas; \$7.1 million approved in the General Obligation Bond bill to construct and renovate the NMHU – Las Vegas Trolley Building - if the bond is approved by the voters in November; \$3.5 million in other state funds to construct the Rock Lake Warm Water Fish Hatchery and Educational Center in Santa Rosa; \$500 thousand to construct a state police district headquarters; and, \$5 million to renovate the Luna Community College Voc-Ed Complex in Las Vegas if the bond is approved by the voters in November. These funds are in addition to other funds already secured to start and in most cases, fully fund the construction of these needed community projects.

I am very proud of the work we have done to better our area. In good times we have thrived, now in more tenuous times, we must rise through the difficulties and show our ability to continue regardless of the economic hurdles that face us. How we feel about ourselves lays the groundwork for how we feel about the work we do, the way we treat each other and the success we all enjoy. In other words, we create our morale and how we feel about ourselves and others. *Let's keep our morale at the highest level possible!*

Siempre,

Pete Campos, EdD