Comparison Of Vice President Gore And Governor Bush On Environmental Issues

Gore:
- Has a stronger position than the Administration on protecting roadless, wild areas of our National Forests. Called for an end to all logging in those unspoiled places and immediate protection for the Tongass National Forest in Alaska.
- Enacted the California Desert Protection Act, largest public lands protection bill ever in the lower 48 states.
- Opposes drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
- Created or expanded 10 new National Monuments to protect landscapes threatened by development.
- Reduced logging in National Forests by 80% since 1993.
- Extended offshore oil leasing moratorium in California and Florida for ten years.
- Proposed Lands Legacy Initiative
- Supports expanding the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Bush:
- Seeks to weaken Superfund cleanups.
- Texas leads the nation in injecting toxic waste into underground wells, disposing 60% more toxic waste into injection wells than any other state.

Gore:
- Strengthened seat and snout clean-air health standards, fighting legal challenges to those protections.
- Adopted strictest every emissions standards for cars, SUV's and light trucks.
- Required elimination of 90% of sulfur from gasoline.
- Called on power plants to cut their air pollution and global warming emissions.
- Proposed slashing sulfur levels in diesel fuel.

Bush:
- Texas leads the U.S. in toxic industrial air pollution, but Bush chose not to require outdated facilities to clean up.
- Texas state officials sought to weaken Clean Air Act.
- Houston passed Los Angeles last year as America's smoggiest city.
- When Bush came to office in 1995, he cancelled the auto emissions testing program in Houston.

A Message From The Chapter Political Chair

We are bringing you this special newsletter of the Rio Grande Chapter to highlight our endorsements for this year's general election. I hope that you take the time to look through our selections. If you have the time, I encourage you to volunteer in a campaign. Many of these candidates need your help. If you have the money, I encourage you to make a contribution. There is an old cliché that says "Money is the mother's milk of politics." Those on the other side of our environmental issues know this well. Go to the website www.opensecrets.org to see the contributor lists for federal races.

We have spent a considerable amount of this issue on providing more detail on Al Gore. New Mexico is still considered a toss-up state for the Presidential election. The presidential election could be decided here in New Mexico. The prospect of President George Bush, Speaker of the House Tom DeLay, Majority Leader Trent Lott and Chief Justice Scalia should give you some pause.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jim Hannan
Gore For President

Earth In The Balance, Ecology And The Human Spirit

Quotations From Earth In The Balance, Ecology And The Human Spirit.

By Al Gore

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However, a new class of environmental problems does affect the global ecological system, and these threats are fundamentally strategic. The 600 percent increase in the amount of chlorine in the atmosphere during the last forty years has taken place not only in those countries producing the chlorofluorocarbons responsible for the air above every country, above Antarctica, above the North Pole and the Pacific Ocean—all the way from the surface of the earth to the top of the sky. The increased levels of chlorine disrupt the global process by which the earth regulates the amount of ultraviolet radiation from the sun that is allowed through the atmosphere to the surface, and if we let chlorine levels continue to increase, the radiation levels will also increase—to the point that all animal and plant life will face a new threat to their survival.

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But research in lieu of action is unconscionable. Those who argue that we should do nothing until we have completed a lot more research are trying to shift the burden of proof even as the crisis deepens. This point is crucial: a choice to “do nothing” in response to mounting evidence is actually a choice to continue and even accelerate the reckless environmental destruction that is depleting the atmosphere.

In order to grasp why further waiting is so painfully wrong, it is important to be clear about what is still uncertain and what is already established as fact. For example, the precise effects of doubling the concentration of carbon dioxide (CO2) in the atmosphere during the next few decades are uncertain. But it is clear that doubling CO2 will in fact increase global temperatures and in the process subject us to the risk of catastrophic changes in global climate patterns. And the pace of these potential changes could also be of special concern—because the ecological system has difficulty adapting to rapid change.

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Similarly, when land-based ice melts, the sea level goes up. The large majority of the ice on earth is in Antarctica, resting on top of a land mass—or, in the case of the huge West Antarctic ice sheet— parched on the tops of several islands. This massive ice sheet is believed to have broken up and slid into the ocean during an interglacial warming period 125,000 years ago, raising sea levels twenty three feet. Scientists have tended to discount the possibility of this catastrophe’s recurring for another 200 to 300 years, but in 1991 one of the leading experts on West Antarctica, Dr. Robert Bindschadler of NASA, testified before my subcommittee that he had just been surprised to find that new sampling from the bottom of the ice sheet now show dynamic and dangerous changes. As a result, he has shortened his earlier estimate of how soon it will break up if global temperatures continue to climb.

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Nonetheless, a number of dangerous pollutants have become extremely widespread in much of the world’s water resources. For example, radioactive particles left over from the explosions of nuclear weapons in the Atmospheric Testing Program are found broadly distributed in most of the world’s water, albeit usually in minute amounts. These particles do not yet pose a strategic threat, but a few contaminants that have been widely dispersed in some areas—like PCB’s and DDT—can be ecologically dangerous even in tiny amounts. The great Russian environmentalist Andrei Yablokov has pointed out that some powerful pesticides can cause behavioral changes in animals in extremely low concentrations. He notes, for instance, “a pesticide called sevin, (which) even in an infinitesimal concentration of one billionth, can change the behavior of large schools of fish: their movement becomes uncoordinated. This toxic concentration creates a chemical background in our biosphere.”

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...most biologists believe that the rapid destruction of the tropical rain forests, and the irreparable loss of the living species dying along with them, represent the single most serious damage to nature now occurring. While some of the other injuries we are inflicting on the global ecological system may heal over the course of hundreds or thousands of years, the wholesale annihilation of so many living species in such a breathtaking moment of geological time represents a deadly wound to the integrity of the earth’s painstakingly intricate web of life, a wound so nearly permanent that scientists estimate that recuperation would take 100 million years.

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And in the United States, particularly in heavily logged regions like the Pacific Northwest and Alaska, there is a renewed assault on the great stretches of temperate forest that are so important to us. The statistics about forests can be deceptive too: although the United States, like several other developed nations, actually has more forested land now than it did a hundred years ago, many of the large tracts that have been "harvested" and replanted have been converted from diverse hardwoods to a monoculture of softwood conifer forests that no longer support the species that once thrived in the woods. In national forests throughout the country, logging roads are being built in order to facilitate the more rapid logging, even clear-cutting, of public lands under contracts that require the sales of the trees at rates far below market prices. This enormous taxpayer subsidy for the deforestation...
tion of public land contributes to both the budget deficit and an ecological tragedy.

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The primary sources for all of our principal food crops are being systematically destroyed. This must be only just now becoming understood by agronomists; one who does is Te-Tau Chang, the head of the International Storage Center for Rice Genes in the Philippines, where 86,000 varieties of rice are kept. As he told National Geographic, "What people call progress -- hydroelectric dams, roads, logging, colonization, modern agriculture -- is putting us on a food-security tightrope. We are losing wild stands of rice and old domesticated crops everywhere."

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The latest scheme masquerading as a national and responsible alternative to landfills is a nationwide -- and worldwide -- move to drastically increase the use of incineration.

The huge new investment in new incinerators -- almost $20 billion worth -- is being made even though major health and environmental concerns have never been adequately answered. According to congressional investigators, the air pollution from waste incinerators typically includes dioxins, furans and pollutants like arsenic, cadmium, chlorobenzenes, chlorophenols, chromium, cobalt, lead, mercury, PCP's and sulfur dioxide. In the case of mercury emissions, a lengthy study by the Clean Water Fund found that "municipal waste incinerators are now the most rapidly growing source of mercury emissions to the atmosphere."

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When an underdeveloped nation cuts down a million acres of tropical rain forest in a single year, the money received from the sale of the logs is counted as part of that nation's income for the year. The wear and tear on the chainsaws and logging trucks as a result of a year's work in the rain forest will be entered on the expense side of the ledger, but the wear and tear on the forest itself will not. In fact, nowhere in the calculation of that country's GNP will there be an entry reflecting the stark reality that a million acres of rain forest is now gone. This ought to strike anyone as alarming, if not absurd.

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Perhaps because it is unprecedented, the environmental crisis seems completely beyond our understanding and outside of what we call common sense. We consign it to some seldom visited attic in our minds where we place ideas that we vaguely understand but barely explore. We tag it with the same mental labels we might use for Antarctica: remote, alien, hopelessly distorted by the maps of the world we inhabit, too hard to get to and too unforgiving to stay very long. When we do visit this attic, when we learn about how inescapably the causes of the crisis are woven into the fabric of industrial civilization, our hope of solving it seems chimerical. It seems so forbidding that we resist taking even the first steps toward positive change.

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In today's world, the links between social injustice and environmental degradation can be seen everywhere: the placement of toxic waste dumps in poor neighborhoods; the devastation of indigenous peoples and the extinction of their cultures when the rain forests are destroyed; disproportionate levels of lead and toxic air pollution in inner-city ghettos; the corruption of many government officials by people who seek to profit from the unsustainable exploitation of resources.

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One of the best development ideas of the last ten years is one first proposed by the biologist Tom Lovejoy of the Smithsonian, the so-called debt-for-nature swaps. Under this plan, a version of which was finally agreed to by Brazil in the summer of 1991, debts owed by developing countries to the industrial nations are forgiven in return for enforceable agreements to protect vulnerable parts of the environment in the debtor nation ... a massive reduction of the crippling burden of debt now carried by the developing world is absolutely essential to creating the prospect for sustainable societies -- and eventually a global economy that functions with these nations as integral and healthy participants.

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In my view, five strategic goals must direct and inform our efforts to save the global environment.

The first strategic goal should be the stabilizing of world populations, with policies designed to create in every nation of the world the conditions necessary for the so-called demographic transition -- the historic and well-documented change from a dynamic equilibrium of high birth rates and death rates to a stable equilibrium of low birth rates and death rates.

The second strategic goal should be the rapid creation and development of environmentally appropriate technologies -- especially in the fields of energy, transportation, agriculture, building construction and manufacturing -- capable of accommodating economic progress with the concurrent degradation of the environment. These new technologies must then be quickly transferred to all nations -- especially those in the Third World.

The third strategic goal should be a comprehensive and ubiquitous change in the economic "rules of the road" by which we measure the impact of our decisions on the environment. We must establish -- by global agreement -- a system of economic accounting that assigns appropriate values to the ecological consequences of our behavior. Individuals and companies must be held accountable in the marketplace by their neighbors and nations for the environmental consequences of their choices by nations.

The fourth strategic goal should be the negotiation and approval of a new generation of international agreements that will embody the regulatory frameworks, specific prohibitions, enforcement mechanisms, cooperative planning, sharing arrangements, incentives, penalties, and mutual obligations necessary to make the overall plan a success.

The fifth strategic goal should be the establishment of a cooperative plan for educating the world's citizens about our global environment...

Finally, the plan should have as its more general goal the establishment, particularly in the developing world -- of the social and political conditions that could lead to the emergence of sustainable societies -- such as social justice (including equitable patterns of land ownership); a commitment to human rights; adequate nutrition, health care and shelter; high literacy rates; and greater political freedom, participation and accountability.
Senator Jeff Bingaman

Senator Jeff Bingaman is seeking his fourth term in the U.S. Senate. He has served since 1983. His opponent is Bill Richwood, who served briefly in Congress where he allied himself politically and philosophically with Newt Gingrich and Helen Chenoweth.

The following are environmental accomplishments of Jeff Bingaman:

**The Baca/Valles Caldera**

Jeff Bingaman led the effort to purchase the privately owned Baca Ranch. In 1997, he initiated the effort and continued to work on the acquisition until it became a reality this year.

**Bandelier National Monument**

Jeff Bingaman sponsored a bill in 1998 which extended the boundaries of the Monument, protecting almost 1000 acres from commercial development.

**Renewable Energy**

Bingaman is a founding member of the Senate Renewables and Energy Efficient Caucus. He has cosponsored a number of bills to increase funding for renewable energy.

**Zuni River Watershed**

Senator Bingaman sponsored the "Zuni River Watershed Act" and has secured funding of over a million dollars to prevent further degradation of the watershed.

**Land and Water Conservation Fund**

As the ranking member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Senator Bingaman is working to pass legislation that would permanently and fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The bill would provide approximately $50 million dollars per year to New Mexico for urban parks, historic preservation sites and open space acquisition.

**Vanishing Treasures**

Senator Bingaman is supporting efforts of the National Park Service to maintain and restore Pueblo architecture at a number of parks and monuments in New Mexico.

**Environmental Protection**

Jeff Bingaman voted against efforts to cut the Environmental Protection Agency's enforcement budget by 25%. He has voted to reauthorize the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and he opposed efforts to cut funds for these programs.

**Cave and Karst Research Institute**

Senator Bingaman wrote the legislation creating the National Cave and Karst Research Institute in Carlsbad, which is dedicated to the study of cave systems and the promotion of environmentally sound resource management practices.

Campaign Committee:
A Lot of People Who Support Jeff Bingaman
P.O. Box 2048
Albuquerque, NM 87103
Phone: 266-5333

Campaign Headquarters:
8081 Mountain Road Place NE
Suite 100
Albuquerque
John Kelly
US Congress – District 1

John Kelly is seeking to defeat incumbent Heather Wilson in District 1. Wilson has an abysmal environment voting record in her short time in Congress, with a 1999 League of Conservation Voters (LCV) score of 6%. She voted with the environmental position only once in sixteen votes, for an international family planning bill. Wilson is closely allied with New Mexico Senator Pete Domenici, who scored a zero in 1999 for his LCV score.

John Kelly has a long history of environmental activism. As an attorney in a public interest law firm, he fought polluting power plants, coal mines, airports and low level supersonic military flights. For the last eight years, Kelly served as the US Attorney for New Mexico. During that time he successfully prosecuted cases involving violations of the Endangered Species Act and hazardous waste discharges into the Rio Grande. He successfully supported the right of Pueblos to set strict water quality standards.

John Kelly is a longtime Sierra Club member. If elected, John Kelly will work further the Sierra Club priorities. He supports efforts to restore the Rio Grande and will co-sponsor a New Mexico wilderness bill. He is also dedicated to urban environmental issues, including growth management, renewable energy and raising the vehicle fuel efficiency standards. Kelly opposes “fast track” authority in trade agreements that would bypass environmental protections. He strongly supports campaign finance reform.

John Kelly needs our help. To volunteer call 830-2011.

To contribute to his campaign, mail to:
John Kelly for Congress

Tom Udall
U.S. Congress – District 1

Tom Udall has been an outstanding in his first term in Congress. Udall com voting record in 1999, and co-sponsored recently became the first U.S. representation of four dams on the Snake River. Ud. Mexico wilderness bill.

Udall is opposed by Lisa Lutz, a sta Rio Rancho area. Lutz has been a staune legislature. In her 1996 National Political Vote Smart, Lutz supported self-audit prov analysis of economic impacts of environ waited either more flexibility from the fec ing and funding federal environmental reg Mexico’s participation in these regulator

To help Tom Udall, call 986-3990.

His mailing address is:
Udall for Us All
P.O. Box 208
Santa Fe, NM 87504
Janice Paster

High priority race

Janice Paster previously represented this north central Albuquerque district until 1996. Janice Paster needs our help to take back this senate seat from Ramsey Gorham. Call her at 344-9769 or mail to 5553 Elakes Road, Albuquerque, 87107.

Brad Hays

High priority race

Brad Hays is seeking to succeed retiring senator Pauline Eisenstadt in a northeastern Albuquerque district. Hays is an attorney. His phone number is 982-1050 and his address is P.O. Box 15520, Rio Rancho 87174.

Dede Feldman

Unopposed

A longtime environmentalist, Dede Feldman has sponsored many bills to preserve the bosque and conserve water, including a landmark groundwater protection bill passed in 1999. Feldman is in her first term from an Albuquerque district.

Roman Maes

Priority race

Senator Roman Maes has been a key legislator in several important areas. He was the prime sponsor of the New Mexico Solid Waste Act and the Tire Recycling Act. He helped pass both the Mining Act and the Subdivision Act, the two most important environmental bills passed during the 1990's. Senator Maes can be reached at 982-9508 or 1488B St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, 87501.

Shannon Robinson

Priority race

Shannon Robinson has served three terms in the state senate. He is an attorney and represents a southeast Albuquerque district. His phone number is 252-0815 and his address is 716 Indians SE, Albuquerque, 87120.

Carlos Cisneros

Unopposed

Carlos Cisneros is completing his fourth term in the state senate. His district includes parts of Taos, Mora and Santa Fe counties. Cisneros was supportive of alternative utility deregulation provisions in the 1999 session. He has been involved with recent discussions involving new pesticide notification legislation. Cisneros is also active in Rio Grande issues.

Leonard Tsoie

Unopposed

Senator Tsoie lives in Crownpoint and represents a large district that extends from the Colorado border to Bernalillo county. He is an attorney and has served two terms.

Cisco McSorley

Unopposed

Cisco McSorley is completing his first senate term. He previously served in the House. Cisco is one of our key legislators. He is an attorney from the Albuquerque area.

Nancy Rodriguez

Unopposed

Nancy Rodriguez is finishing her first elected term. She helped to rally support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund memorial during the regular 2000 session, as well as the Relief Route/WIPP memorial in the special session.
**State House of Representatives**

**Mimi Stewart**

*High priority race*

Mimi Stewart is a teacher and represents a southeastern Albuquerque district. Her district is very competitive. She needs Club support. Call her at 273-2355 or mail a check to 313 Moon NE, Albuquerque, 87123.

**Raymond Sanchez**

*High priority race*

Raymond Sanchez is the Speaker of the House. He controls the legislative agenda as well as committee assignments. His north central Albuquerque district is very competitive and he faces businessman John Sanchez this year. To help out call 896-6644 or mail to P.O. Box 1966, Albuquerque, 87103.

**Danice Picraux**

*Has opponent*

Danice Picraux is the Majority Whip. She serves on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Representative Picraux has served five terms from a central Albuquerque district. Her phone number is 239-2977 and her address is 4508 Avenida La Resolana NE, Albuquerque, 87110.

**Pauline Gubbels**

*Has opponent*

Pauline Gubbels has served three terms from a central Albuquerque district. She is a member of the Agriculture and Water Resources Committee and has introduced a variety of water bills in the last few sessions, including a bill that will expand the water enforcement powers of the State Engineer. Representative Gubbels can be reached at 884-3982 or 2818 Las Cruces NE, Albuquerque, 87202.

**James Moran**

*Has opponent*

James Moran is running for the seat of the retiring Lisa Lutz, who is challenging Congressman Tom Udall. This district is in Sandoval County, including Rio Rancho. Contact James Moran at 896-0529 or 872 Campfire Rd, SE Rio Rancho, 87124.

**Rick Miera**

*Has opponent*

Rick Miera is completing his fifth term from a central Albuquerque district. Miera is a businessman with a degree from the University of Albuquerque. 843-6641, 1011 Forrester NW, Albuquerque, 87102.

**Miguel Garcia**

*Has opponent*

Miguel Garcia is a teacher, completing his second term from a southwestern Albuquerque district. Miguel is a member of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee. He can be reached at 877-8131 or 1118 La Post Rd. SW, Albuquerque, 87105.

**Fred Luna**

*Has opponent*

Fred Luna has served 15 terms in the House from the Los Lunas area. 865-7426, 1651 Los Lentes NE, Los Lunas, 87031.
November 7 - Vote!

House Endorsements Continued

Gore & Lieberman:
Environmental Voting Record

Al Gore
As a Congressman, Gore was a leader in the creation of Superfund legislation in 1980. As a Senator, he fought for an important amendment to regulate toxic emissions under the Clean Air Act in 1990, and was a proponent of energy conservation measures. As vice president, he has been lauded as the most knowledgeable environmental advocate to reach such high office in the United States. In April 1999, Jay Bransgan of Time magazine wrote, "Thanks to Gore, the Clinton admin-
istration is the most pro-environment in a generation. The green lobby has never had better White House access and is consulted early about legislation and regulations, following years of virtual exile under Reagan and Bush."

Despite the breadth of his environmental interest and activism in other areas, global warming is the most prominent issue with which Gore is identified. He developed a focus on the issue of global warming before many environmental groups were active on the issue. In 1992, Gore's best selling book, Earth in the Balance permanently tied him to the global warming issue. Although personally politically risky, Gore salvaged the United States' role in the 1997 Kyoto climate change negotiations and helped produce an international treaty to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions.

Joe Lieberman
Joe Lieberman was one of eleven US Senators in 1999 to score 100% on the League of Conservation Voters scorecard.

J. Paul Taylor
Has opponent
Taylor has served seven terms from Dona Ana County. He has a masters degree from New Mexico State University. 526-8949, P.O. Box 133, Mesilla, 88046

Unopposed
Gail Beam has a PhD in special education from the University of New Mexico. She is completing her second term from a central Albuquerque district.

Unopposed
Representative Stapleton has served three terms from a south central Albuquerque district. She is an assistant school principal.

Unopposed
Nick Salazar is completing his 14th term from a northern New Mexico district. He serves on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, where he is a quiet but effective environmental advocate.

Patty Lundstrom
Has opponent
Patty Lundstrom is seeking to succeed David Pederson in this Gallup area district. 863-0098, 3406 Bluehill, Gallup, 87301

Unopposed
W. Ken Martinez has completed his first term from the Grants area. He is an attorney and is a member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Unopposed
Inez Moncada is running against Representative Gloria Vaughn in an Otero County district. 473-3906, 119 New York, Alamogordo, 88310

Unopposed
Jeni Alexander is running against Dab Williams in a primarily Lincoln County district. 858-4334, 806B First Street, Tularosa, 88352