

April 6, 2009

SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 24

The Honorable Timothy Z. Jennings, President Pro Tempore
and Members of the New Mexico State Senate
State Capitol Building
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear President Pro Tempore Jennings and Members of the Senate:

Pursuant to the Constitution of the State of New Mexico, Article IV, Section 22, I hereby VETO and return SENATE BILL 548, as amended, which was enacted during the Forty-Ninth Legislature, First Session, 2009.

I am a strong supporter of the automotive industry generally, and especially those New Mexicans who make their livelihoods in this industry. I have heard and appreciate the thoughts of those auto dealers concerned about potential deleterious effects of adopting stricter emission standards in the near term. And in an ideal world I, too, would prefer that the federal government address this issue by implementing strict, enforceable national standards that would cover all states uniformly. This is not happening, however, at the federal level in the time frame I believe necessary to protect human health and solve the problem of climate change, which becomes more pressing by the day. The standards that New Mexico adopted more than a year ago are designed to reduce air pollutants that harm public health and the environment, such as volatile organic compounds, oxides of nitrogen and greenhouse gas emissions from transportation, which is the third largest and fastest growing source of greenhouse gas emissions in the state.

Having said that, all of these issues are most properly addressed through executive function, not through legislative directive. I am therefore vetoing Senate Bill 548, as amended on the basis that it encroaches on what is properly executive authority. I am, however, concurrently directing the New Mexico Environment Department to work with New Mexico auto dealers and other interested parties to discuss an implementation schedule for clean car standards that is not unduly burdensome on our state's auto industry but which also begins to address environmental concerns meaningfully and in an appropriate time frame. It may be that a delay in implementation is prudent and

