

March 9, 2010

HOUSE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 147

The Honorable Ben Luján and
Members of the House of Representatives
State Capitol Bldg.
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Honorable Speaker Luján and Members of the House:

I have this day SIGNED:

HOUSE BILL 181 with certificate of correction, which was enacted during the Forty-Ninth Legislature, Second Session, 2010.

I support the regulatory clarity regarding renewable energy distributed energy facilities that is provided in Section 1 of this bill. However, I am concerned that the bill specifies an effective date of January 1, 2011 for Section 1, which may prevent several important distributed solar projects already under development from moving forward in a timely manner.

In addition, I am concerned about the implementation of Section 2, which calls for the Public Regulation Commission (PRC) to approve interconnected customer rate riders. The PRC and entities participating in PRC proceedings must exercise caution in interpreting this Section. This Section should not be interpreted to limit the evidence the PRC may consider when establishing interconnected customer charges. Furthermore, a relatively small charge could be prudent but a high charge could hinder the growth of New Mexico's burgeoning renewable energy industry, and the green jobs and environmental benefits associated with that industry's success. I have directed the New Mexico Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department to participate in PRC proceedings to the extent possible to ensure that any charges placed on interconnected customers are not unreasonably high.

Given those caveats I recognize the importance of signing into law a bill that provides regulatory clarity regarding renewable energy distributed energy facilities and a date certain when such projects may proceed in our state.

Respectfully yours,

Bill Richardson
Governor

RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR:

Time: _____ a.m./p.m.
Date: _____ 2010

by: _____
Secretary of State

Time: _____ a.m./p.m.
Date: _____ 2010

by: _____
Chief Clerk of the House