



State of New Mexico

Office of the Lieutenant Governor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LT. GOVERNOR DIANE DENISH CHALLENGES SCHOOL DISTRICTS
TO SAVE MONEY**

Santa Fe, NM – Lt. Governor Diane Denish will be meeting with New Mexico school superintendents tomorrow to discuss energy cost saving measures. Our school districts spend more than \$60 million on energy costs per year.

“I’m challenging each school district to cut its energy use by 10 percent because during these tough economic times we all need to think outside the box to save money and be more energy efficient. Making our schools more energy efficient will save millions of dollars per year will send our students an important message about protecting our environment and energy resources. This measure alone won't fix our state's budget shortfall but it's an example of one creative measure we can take to be more fiscally responsible. We must find more like it," said Lt. Governor Diane Denish.

Lt. Governor Diane Denish is partnering with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency to offer the Energy Star Challenge to New Mexico’s school districts. Each school district will be asked to commit to improve their energy efficiency by at least 10% and to measure and track energy performance of their facilities. In exchange for their pledge, districts will be provided with tools, guidelines, and training free of charge to assist them in meeting the energy challenge. Lt. Governor Denish’s website (<http://www.ltgovernor.state.nm.us/EnergyStarChallenge2.php>) will serve as a clearinghouse for EPA information and other resources for school districts.

For more information about the initiative contact Carlos Acosta at (505) 231-2094.

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