



State of New Mexico

Office of the Lieutenant Governor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LT. GOVERNOR DIANE DENISH SUMMARIZES PUBLIC
SUGGESTIONS TO GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY HOTLINE**

More than one hundred calls received

Santa Fe – Lt. Governor Diane Denish today announced the initial results of her government efficiency hotline. The Lt. Governor established the hotline for the public to provide suggestions for increasing the efficiency of government on October 23, 2009.

“More than one hundred calls have been received since my government efficiency hotline was established. Some callers talked about salaries and the number of state employees. Others suggested changes to state car use, such as eliminating take home vehicles and requiring more car-pooling to save energy costs. Another suggested replacing state cars with hybrids,” said Lt. Governor Diane Denish.

Those state employees, termed “double dippers”, who are receiving retirement payment as well as a state payroll check garnered the most comments on the hotline. Callers to the hotline were unanimous in their support to eliminate “double dippers” from the state employee rolls.

Other suggestions included:

- Government should have fewer exempt state employees;
- Exempt employees should face salary reductions;
- Eliminate take home cars;
- State should buy smaller cars, rather than SUVs;
- There should be more car-pooling;
- Reduce state employee hours to increase savings;
- Government should go on a four day work week;
- Shut down for 23 days as Clinton did in the 1990s;
- State employees take one day off a pay period.

Some callers suggested revenue raising approaches. One suggested corporate taxes on companies such as Lowes, Cost Co, and Sam’s. Another suggested tax increases on junk food, alcohol and cigarettes.

“I appreciate that so many people have taken the time to call the hotline. I hope that we will continue to receive more suggestions. I encourage those working within state government to give serious thought to ways to increase efficiency and reduce waste and call the hotline and tell us your idea. We will consolidate recommendations made to the hotline and provide them to the Governor and legislators,” Lt. Governor Denish said.

The Lt. Governor’s efficiency hotline number is 505.750.4684.

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