

## **Statements in Support of Fixing the Bush Administration West-wide Energy Corridors**

The following are statements supporting fixes to the West-wide Energy Corridors to better serve renewable energy resources, coordinate with local, state and tribal governments, comply with environmental laws and protect iconic public lands and sensitive wildlife habitat. Contact information is also provided for reporters seeking more information.

**Craig Cox, Interwest Energy Alliance -- Testimony before House Subcommittees on National Parks, Forests and Public lands & Energy and Mineral Resources (April 15, 2008). Phone: (303) 679-9331 Email: [cox@interwest.org](mailto:cox@interwest.org)**

“Unfortunately, it seems the proposed corridors in the Draft PEIS appear in many ways to facilitate proposed new coal plants. I suggest we need to look toward the future as we plan these permanent corridors across the West in a comprehensive, region-wide approach. We could significantly improve the corridor study by having the federal agencies, in their final report, focus on linking up *renewable* energy resources throughout the region.” (emphasis original)

**Nate Cote, New Mexico State Representative Phone: (575) 373-0902 Email: [ncote@zianet.com](mailto:ncote@zianet.com)**

“New Mexico has a lot of expertise to offer the federal government in finding the best places for transmission for renewable energy, but unfortunately, we’ve been ignored,” said State Representative Nate Cote. “By truly considering local input, prioritizing renewables and avoiding sensitive places, there is a way to fix these corridors – we’d like to see them become the instrument for a clean energy economy which Congress intended. The agencies should make these corridors right for our lands, our people, and the climate.”

**Sharon Thomas, Las Cruces City Councillor Phone: 575-644-2517 Email: [skthomas\\_10@msn.com](mailto:skthomas_10@msn.com)**

“Transmission of renewable energy should be the first priority and, therefore, should be the determining factor in the location of these corridors. In addition, corridor locations should not present a threat to parks, refuges, wilderness areas, or endangered and sensitive species habitats. Unfortunately, the Bureau of Land Management and the Department of Energy failed to complete a full analysis or consult with local officials in their original planning effort. The result is a very inadequate, and possibly destructive, plan,” said Sharon Thomas, Las Cruces City Councillor.

“In the city of Las Cruces, we believe we can support renewables while protecting iconic places like our Organ Mountains, which were originally cut by the corridors. After considerable public outcry, that section of the corridors was removed, but that does not address the root of the problem. The corridors must be the result of full analysis and consultation so they can help move us toward a clean and sustainable energy future.”