



Animal Protection Voters Endorse Joe Campos for Lieutenant Governor *Endorsement Praises Campos' Voting Record and Extraordinary Support for Animal Protection*

Animal protection advocate Joe Campos, Democratic candidate for Lieutenant Governor, has received a written endorsement from the Animal Protection Voters (APV) of New Mexico, a non-profit organization dedicated to creating an effective political voice for animal advocacy in New Mexico. Animal Protection Voters work with legislators to pass laws that will change animals' lives for the better. The endorsement letter begins,

Animal Protection Voters (APV) is pleased to notify you of our enthusiastic endorsement of your 2010 campaign for Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico.

We first want to recognize that during the last four New Mexico state legislative sessions for which APV published a scorecard, your record on animal protection bills has been 100% in three of the four years.

The letter continues in part,

We also want to acknowledge your unique and extraordinary support for efforts by Animal Protection of New Mexico (APNM is APV's sister organization) to seek permanent retirement for 202 chimpanzees who previously were subject to invasive and painful research.

The letter concludes,

Thank you for your wonderful commitment to ensuring strong laws and humane practices to protect New Mexico's vulnerable animals.

For the 2010 Democratic Lieutenant Governor campaign, the APV issued dual independent endorsements. Campos' endorsement cited his outstanding voting record in support of animal protection and his proactive involvement seeking retirement of the chimpanzees currently in captivity at the Alamogordo Primate Facility. The endorsement for Brian Colon cited Colon's verbal commitment to support animal protection.

Representative Campos commented, "I am very pleased to have earned the endorsement of the Animal Protection Voters here in New Mexico. Further, my informative briefing by APV regarding the plight of the research chimpanzees at Holloman AFB and my visit to the facility where they are housed has demonstrated to me the professionalism, dedication, and commitment of this organization to the welfare animals---large and small."

I believe that we, the people, are stewards of the earth and of the animals that inhabit it. As such, we must treat all animals humanely, and with dignity and respect. Animals should not be made to suffer neither as a sport, nor through negligence.

We must practice enlightened wildlife conservation to ensure that we do not negatively impact the natural ecological balance. This includes protection of endangered species and wild habitats, as well as prevention of over-population which could lead to animal starvation. It's a very delicate balance and our role as stewards of earth and its animals is a responsibility that requires diligence and prudence.

Recently, I had the privilege of inspecting the Alamogordo Primate Facility along with field representatives for Senator Udall and Representative Teague, State Representative Nate Cote, Mike Espiritu - Executive Director of the Alamogordo Chamber of Commerce, and Laura Bonar, chimpanzee retirement project director for APV. I learned of the plight of 202 chimpanzees held at the Primate Facility that were used as research subjects subjected to painful experiments. I join the APV and APNM in supporting their efforts to secure a humane retirement for these animals.

I am proud of my positive 100% legislative voting record as acknowledged by the APV. As Lieutenant Governor, I will be sensitive and alert to animal exploitation, neglect, and abuse and I will be a vigorous proponent for animal protection."

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