



**Aubrey Dunn, State Land Commissioner  
State of New Mexico**

For Immediate Release

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**Commissioner Dunn Welcomes Senator Domenici to the Land Office as Senior Advisor**

**Santa Fe, NM (November 30, 2016)** – New Mexico State Land Commissioner Aubrey Dunn announced today that Senator Pete V. Domenici will be joining the New Mexico State Land Office as Commissioner Dunn’s senior advisor.

“Senator Domenici is a wealth of knowledge and brings the Land Office a lifetime of experience. I can’t think of anyone better to come on as my senior advisor,” said Commissioner Dunn. “His dedication and service to the state of New Mexico and to its natural resources is very admirable and the Land Office is fortunate to have him. I am honored and privileged to welcome Senator Domenici to my team.”

Senator Domenici started his professional life as a junior high math teacher in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Not long after, he earned his law degree from the University of Denver and started a private law practice in Albuquerque. Domenici started in politics in 1966 as Chairman of the Albuquerque City Commission. In 1972 he was elected to the U.S. Senate, becoming the first Republican senator from New Mexico in 38 years. Domenici retired from the Senate in 2008 as the longest-serving senator in New Mexico history and one of the top 15 longest-serving senators in U.S. history. During his tenure in the U.S. Senate, Domenici was deeply involved with a number of issues, including behavioral health, budgetary matters and energy and natural resources. Senator Domenici served as Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee for four years during his tenure as a U.S. Senator.

“His experience in political office overseeing the matters of energy and natural resources provides great guidance to the Land Office. New Mexico is rich in natural resources, and it is the largest source of revenue generation to the trust. Senator Domenici will be a key advisor on natural resource matters – he is a wonderful asset to my administration,” said Commissioner Dunn.

Commissioner Dunn will seek Senator Domenici’s advice mainly on policy issues, energy and natural resource management and special projects, such as the issue of early childhood education, which Senator Domenici will be addressing at the American Legislative Exchange Council summit later this week.

“I look forward to working with the Land Commissioner on the bill he has prepared regarding early childhood education and the assurance of funding for this initiative, as well as assisting the Land Commissioner in his overall obligation and commitment to education funding for New Mexicans. I’m grateful for the opportunity to work with Commissioner Dunn. It will bring back many memories of working with his father, who was a New Mexico icon for many years. I will be relocating to New Mexico in mid-January of 2017 after many years in Washington, DC, and my wife Nancy and I look forward to returning to New Mexico permanently,” said Senator Domenici.

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The State Land Office is responsible for administering 9 million acres of surface and 13 million acres of subsurface estate for the beneficiaries of the state land trust, which includes schools, universities, hospitals and other important public institutions.

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