



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Common Cause Honors Senator Peter Wirth With Jack Taylor Award

WHAT: Award Ceremony, with Panel Discussion on the Future of Campaign Finance Reform in New Mexico

WHEN: Saturday, October 29, from 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm

WHERE: UNM's Continuing Education Building, 1634 University Blvd NE in Albuquerque

**WHO: State Senator Peter Wirth (D-Santa Fe)
UNM Professor of Political Science Gabriel Sanchez
Director of the Native American Voters Alliance Laurie Weahkee
KNME-TV's Gwyneth Doland (moderator) and you!**

**ADMISSION: \$20, which includes a delicious catered lunch
RSVP: www.commoncause.org/nm/2011luncheon**

Common Cause New Mexico (CCNM) announces that New Mexico State Senator Peter Wirth will receive the 2011 Jack Taylor Best in Government Award. This award is bestowed each year on a distinguished New Mexican who has done an exceptional service to the state by advocating reforms to make government more accountable to ordinary people. Wirth's tireless efforts to refine and improve New Mexico's ethics and campaign finance laws have made him a respected leader among both his legislative peers and the civic organizations who are working on these issues.

"There are very few legislators who understand the complex campaign finance issues facing our state as well as Senator Wirth does," says James Harrington, chair of Common Cause New Mexico. "During the 2012 election cycle, we will likely see more special-interest money than ever flowing into New Mexico campaigns, much of it coming from out of state. We at Common Cause are grateful to have an effective champion like Senator Wirth working on legislation to ensure that voters are fully informed about the nature and origins of this special-interest money."

In particular, Harrington praised Senator Wirth's sponsorship of SB547, a campaign finance disclosure bill presented during the 2011 legislative session that sought to make desperately-needed fixes to the New Mexico Campaign Reporting Act. In previous sessions, Wirth has also sponsored other successful campaign finance reforms designed to increase the transparency of campaign finance in New Mexico.

Wirth will receive the award at Common Cause New Mexico's annual luncheon on Saturday, October 29. The event will also include a panel discussion on the future of campaign finance reform with **Senator Wirth, University of New Mexico Professor Gabriel Sanchez** and **Executive Director of the Native American Voters Alliance Laurie Weahkee**. The panel will be moderated by **KNME-TV's Gwyneth Doland**.