Statement to be presented to the Air Quality Control Regulations hearings in Santa Fe, New Mexico

My name is Eliot F. Porter, Rt. 4, Box 33, Santa Fe, N.M. I represent myself.

I wish to express my support for the Ambient Air Quality Standards and Air quality Control Regulations proposed by the New Mexico Board of Health and social Services, including the modifications proposed by the New Mexico Citizens for Clean Air and Water. In particular I believe that visibility standards for the degree of allowable air pollution, rather than standards based on weight of particulate matter per cubic meter of air, should be adopted.

First of all these standards directly concern my personal interest in the New Mexico atmosphere. I am a photographer and conservationist. I moved to northern New Mexico twentythree years ago because of the advantages that the climate and clear air of this part of the Southwest offered for the practice of my profession. Clarity of the atmosphere, permitting visibilities of over one-hundred miles, presents an obvious advantage to one engaged in nature photography, which is my special field.

The photographer has another economic interest in unpolluted air. The products of his accumulated knowledge, training, and labor - the photographic negatives, transparencies, and prints - are vulnerable to the deteriorating action of industrial gasses. Photographic products have a much longer life expectancy here in New Mexico than they do in New York City, for instance. They

represent my investment in earning power, built up over many years, for book and magazine publication. They also represent my potential influence as a natural environment conservationist.

More important, however, than these matters of personal concern is the diminishment that air pollution, including loss of visibility and dissemination of noxious gasses, will produce on the quality of life enjoyed by the people of New Mexico. The value of the intangible benefits from a clean environment, from clear blue sky, from healthy vegetation, from an abundance of wild life to the spirit and happiness of people is not measurable in dollars and cents. The value of an industrial enterprise in terms of profits for a select few cannot be offset against the intangible qualities of a happy life. Pollution brings on a depression of the spirit; it causes discouragement and a declining interest in one's surroundings, which will not be recompensed by industrial employment. Every state, every area of a state, does not have to be industrialized. Beautiful regions, such as New Mexico is, should be zoned against industrialization. It is not suitable there - it will only destroy it. There are other ways to advance the prosperity of people than to convert them into factory workers.

I urge you out of consideration for the total and greater welfare of its people to keep smog out of New Mexico.

Respectfully submitted,

Ethel Z. Pitt