

May 5, 2018

My name is Deborah Torza Condit and I work as a contract lobbyist in New Mexico. Animal Protection Voters has been one of my clients since 2007.

In 2014, Laura Bonar confided in me that Rep. Carl Trujillo had touched her and made inappropriate comments to her. She was visibly distraught and uncomfortable when she told me of Trujillo's conduct.

I advised her to be direct with him and tell him that she had no personal interest in him. Laura worked the remainder of the session and, to my knowledge, Trujillo had no further contact with her.

After the 2014 Legislature, Laura told me that she chose not to work on legislative issues at the Capitol because of her encounters with Trujillo and the hostility she had experienced.

Laura asked to be reassigned to federal policy issues, so she would not have to interact with Trujillo.

It is unfortunate that our state lost such an effective and knowledgeable advocate for animal protection issues because of the behavior of one legislator.

For too long, the expectation of silence by legislators and others in power at the Capitol to unwanted advances and sexual innuendo has been considered the norm. Because of the courage demonstrated by Laura Bonar and many others, this unacceptable behavior will and must come to an end.

Over the years, I've had the wonderful experience of working alongside professional, intelligent, hard-driving women who care deeply about their work.

I'm proud of my female colleagues and respect the challenging work they do. I am especially proud when we demand the respect we deserve.

It is important to acknowledge the vast majority of male legislators and other government officials who conduct themselves in a thoughtful and respectful manner. Their integrity and professionalism sets the example for others to follow.

Be assured that we will not stop until the Capitol becomes a safe place where women can pursue their chosen professions free from unwanted advances or harassment.

Deborah Torza Condit

