



New Mexico State Senate  
State Capital  
Santa Fe

**SENATOR GEORGE K. MUÑOZ**

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• Revenue Stabilization &  
Tax Policy Committee

January 27, 2021

Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States of America  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Department of Interior Order No. 3395 and Executive Climate Order

Dear Mr. President:

Congratulations on your successful Presidential campaign. I look forward to working together and supporting your continued success. I am hopeful that I will see your New Mexico bolo tie on the news as a reminder of our last meeting as you work toward understanding how our state can continue to preserve the United States' energy independence

As Chairman of the New Mexico Senate Finance Committee, it is my responsibility and my top priority to ensure economic recovery for our state during our current legislative session. The global pandemic has dealt a massive economic blow to New Mexicans without regard to political affiliation or ideology. While state budget reserves are currently healthy, New Mexico's state revenues continue to decline and the longer term outlook remains unclear. I am committed to exploring every legislative opportunity to assist New Mexicans struggling with the impacts of this pandemic, and I remain optimistic that we can find common sense solutions that will help our state recover.

However, with your initial 60-day suspension on federal leasing and permitting for natural gas and oil development, and now your indefinite moratorium on all new federal drilling, I write to urgently request an immediate waiver from your federal drilling restrictions for New Mexico.

New Mexico accounts for 57 percent of federal onshore oil production and 31 percent of onshore natural gas production. Annual New Mexico state revenues from that production amount to more than \$1 billion. Most importantly, one-third of our state's public education funding comes from natural gas and oil development and more than 100,000 jobs are dependent on the state's oil and gas industry. Quite simply, we will not be able to afford to educate our children or provide jobs for thousands of New Mexico families under your federal drilling moratorium.

If New Mexico is not granted a waiver from this new drilling moratorium, conservative estimates predict we will see at least a \$300 million decline in state revenues from oil and gas production in 2022 and a \$400 million decline in 2023. While I strongly support efforts to diversify our state's economy, this kind of dramatic reduction in state revenues is unsustainable for New Mexico. Massive job losses, increased reliance on foreign energy and higher CO2 emissions due to slower transition away from coal are counterintuitive to the keys for a successful economic recovery effort in New Mexico.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to your prompt response to my request.

Sincerely,



George K. Muñoz

