

**From:** [Susan Harris](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Cc:** [Susan Harris](#); [Camilla Feibelman](#); [Miya King-Flaherty](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Case #24683 I Absolutely Support Bonding of Oil & Gas Companies  
**Date:** Thursday, November 6, 2025 4:33:08 PM

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You don't often get email from [susan.harris.realtor@gmail.com](mailto:susan.harris.realtor@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

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I hope it's possible for my statements to be submitted/read to the committee:

"My name is Susan C. Harris, Concerned NM Citizen & NM Licensed Real Estate Broker who has practiced real estate in areas where extractive activities have taken place.

"I am convinced that oil and gas companies must clean up their work sites when they leave them & mitigate their activities while they are actively using and benefitting from their extraction operations.

"Clearly extractive industries should not only financially benefit at the expense of New Mexico's taxpayers, but should be responsible for mitigation and remediation - ideally best while actively operating be required to protect waterways, aquifers & land surrounding their operations from pollution & degradation. "However it is landowners, adjacent & above extractive worksites, who suffer property value loss, the environment suffers degradation, and taxpayers have been left on the hook to clean up and pay for their extractive activities.

"The only way to hold oil and gas companies accountable is to Reform Bonding & Cleanup Rules - which I so strongly support!

Thank you!"

Susan C. Harris, NM Licensed Real Estate Broker (currently only providing referrals to other active Licensed RE Brokers)

Mail: 518 Old Santa Fe Trail - Ste 1, #298

Santa Fe, NM 87505

505-690-0220 Cellphone+Text

[susan.harris.realtor@gmail.com](mailto:susan.harris.realtor@gmail.com)

"Be Kind whenever possible - and it is always possible" (The Dalai Lama)

**From:** [karl kiser](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Case #24683  
**Date:** Thursday, November 6, 2025 7:11:11 PM

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[You don't often get email from ksquared77@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

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Dear Commission:

I fully support a modern rule concerning adequate bonding and cleanup of oil/gas wells.

It is imperative that oil/gas companies include cleanup costs in their business models and not shift costs to the public once a well is at the end of its useful life.

Standard economic theory suggests that all costs be included in the product or gross inefficiencies result in an overuse of the product because price does not reflect actual cost.

The net result is a shifting of costs from a producer to the taxpayer at large at a later time. The public loses here.

It is too easy at present for companies to either abandon wells or transfer wells to financially insecure companies. The resulting orphan wells are costly to cleanup and existing bonds are too low to fund such cleanup.

Bonds must reflect the costs of cleanup and cannot be too low an amount or they are functionally deficient. The amount must reflect the expected number of wells which require cleanup in a given year. And companies must not be able to declare wells inactive and forgo cleanup and remediation indefinitely. Well managed companies can adequately bond their operations.

In sum, New Mexico needs rules which reflect true cleanup costs and adequate bonds are a method to accomplish this end.

Regards,

Karl Kiser

**From:** [Be Sargent](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Case 24683  
**Date:** Thursday, November 6, 2025 10:32:42 AM

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[You don't often get email from besmurals@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

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Oil and Gas drillers must be made to cleanup their messes. Leave the land as they found it.

Be Sargent

McKinley County voter

**From:** [David Bouquin](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - OCD Rules - Modernizing Oil & Gas Bonding & Cleanup Rules  
**Date:** Saturday, November 8, 2025 3:07:00 PM

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You don't often get email from dbouquin5@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear NM Oil and Conservation Commission,

I am in strong support of the proposed OCD oil and gas bonding rules. Here's the bottom line: if you drill it, you should clean it up each time. No exceptions. We need to protect the public health of families in southern New Mexico and not create pollution for generations. We should not sacrifice the health of children and other New Mexico citizens for the profit of industry. We, as consumers, are willing to split some of these extra costs at the gas pump from companies if some of these costs (with reasonable profit) are passed on.

I have been working a lot lately and apologize for the delay in getting these comments to the Commission.

Thank you,  
David Bouquin  
5500 Poblanos Ct NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107

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David Bouquin, MPA, PMP  
505-690-4426

**From:** [Frank Stowers](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.  
**Date:** Thursday, November 6, 2025 1:55:16 PM

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Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

As someone who works in the oil and gas sector, I urge you to consider the long-term consequences of the proposed WELC rule. While I support efforts to remediate our lands and protect our environment, the current proposal risks punishing responsible operators who are already working hard to do the right thing.

We need regulations that are smart and fair—not one-size-fits-all mandates that jeopardize jobs and discourage investment. Let's ensure that New Mexico remains a place where energy development and environmental protection go hand in hand.

Thank you for your leadership and for listening to those of us on the ground.

Sincerely,

Frank Stowers  
6 Desta Dr., Suite 2400  
Midland, TX 79705-5508  
[fstowers@wtmb.com](mailto:fstowers@wtmb.com)  
432-685-9600

**From:** [Malia Villers](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.  
**Date:** Thursday, November 6, 2025 1:05:16 PM

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Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm concerned that the proposed WELC rule may unintentionally increase the number of orphaned wells in New Mexico. If the cost of operating or transferring wells becomes too high, companies may walk away leaving behind wells that could have been responsibly managed or plugged. We saw this happen with Colorado's recent overreaching rules.

We all want to protect our land and water, but blanket mandates that don't account for the realities of field operations could do more harm than good. Let's work together to create rules that encourage responsible stewardship, not abandonment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Malia Villers  
1500 N. Laguna Ave., Farmington NM 87401  
Farmington, NM 87401-7019  
[malia@walsheng.net](mailto:malia@walsheng.net)  
505-360-7248

**From:** [Shari Gallipo](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, November 6, 2025 12:02:18 PM

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Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

Millions are sitting idly, and I request that the red tape be cut and the dollars deployed. The problem isn't funding—it's oversight and execution.

Instead of imposing blanket mandates that could harm smaller operators and local economies, we should be asking why the current system isn't working and why the State isn't using the tools and funds it already has.

New Mexicans deserve clean air, safe water, and a strong economy, and the state must do its part to plug the wells with the funds the Legislature has designated

Shari Gallipo  
27 Ranchitos rd  
Belen, NM 87002-7908  
[slgprivet1@gmail.com](mailto:slgprivet1@gmail.com)  
505-550-4313

**From:** [Greg Shamas](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.  
**Date:** Thursday, November 6, 2025 11:08:21 AM

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Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to share feedback on the proposed bonding rule and the ongoing conversation around orphaned well cleanup.

The Reclamation Fund—paid for by industry—is the only dedicated state source for plugging wells. It was created for this purpose, yet the State continues to redirect those funds to the general budget. That's not just a misuse of taxpayer dollars—it's a failure of oversight.

There is no shortage of funding. What's missing is action. Operators who follow the rules shouldn't be penalized by blanket mandates that make it harder to do business in New Mexico. Instead, we should demand that tax dollars be utilized for their intended purpose.

We can protect our environment and support responsible development—but only if we focus on practical solutions and responsible governance.

Sincerely,

Greg Shamas  
9680 Eagle Ranch Rd Nw Ste 2  
Albuquerque, NM 87114-1581  
[gjshamas79@yahoo.com](mailto:gjshamas79@yahoo.com)  
505-803-0791



**From:** [Joe Kent](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.  
**Date:** Thursday, November 6, 2025 10:31:35 AM

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You don't often get email from [joe@faenergyus.com](mailto:joe@faenergyus.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Members of the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission,

I am writing to strongly oppose the rulemaking proposed by the Western Environmental Law Center (WELC), which would impose drastic changes to the Oil & Gas Act and make it even harder for responsible companies to operate in New Mexico.

The WELC proposals would disproportionately punish small local businesses and make it nearly impossible for them to stay in business. Additionally, the rules would complicate well transfers, hindering companies from extending the productive life of wells through acquisitions. Worse, they grant the state vague, unchecked authority to block these transfers or revoke operator status, creating uncertainty that deters investment.

These changes matter deeply because they threaten the livelihoods of thousands in local communities that rely on oil and gas. I've seen firsthand how this industry provides good-paying jobs, funds schools, and supports local businesses. Forcing small operators out would kill jobs, not create them. By making operations too expensive or transfers too difficult, this will lead to the unintended consequence of more orphan wells as companies walk away, rather than fewer. Investment will simply shift to other states with fairer rules, leaving New Mexico behind.

Lastly, New Mexico operators pay substantial taxes into the Oil and Gas Reclamation Fund. This fund was set up for the exact purpose of plugging and reclaiming orphaned wells and sites.

I urge the Commission to reject these proposals in favor of smart, balanced regulations that support responsible operators without harming workers, families, and our economy. Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Joe Kent

**From:** [John Watson](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, November 6, 2025 9:52:16 AM

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Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

Millions are sitting idly, and I request that the red tape be cut and the dollars deployed. The problem isn't funding—it's oversight and execution.

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New Mexicans deserve clean air, safe water, and a strong economy, and the state must do its part to plug the wells with the funds the Legislature has designated

John Watson  
3600 Cerrillos rd suite 1107  
Santa Fe, NM 87507-2687  
[Ogbuilders@gmail.com](mailto:Ogbuilders@gmail.com)  
505-918-2447

**From:** [Staci Sanders](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.  
**Date:** Thursday, November 6, 2025 9:23:16 AM

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Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

As someone who works in the oil and gas sector, I urge you to consider the long-term consequences of the proposed WELC rule. While I support efforts to remediate our lands and protect our environment, the current proposal risks punishing responsible operators who are already working hard to do the right thing.

We need regulations that are smart and fair—not one-size-fits-all mandates that jeopardize jobs and discourage investment. Let's ensure that New Mexico remains a place where energy development and environmental protection go hand in hand.

Thank you for your leadership and for listening to those of us on the ground.

Sincerely,

Staci Sanders  
2308 Savannah Drive  
Artesia, NM 88210-9006  
[stacis@mec.com](mailto:stacis@mec.com)  
575-703-6023

**From:** [Bradley Bishop](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.  
**Date:** Thursday, November 6, 2025 8:59:15 AM

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Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing as someone who works in the oil and gas industry and lives in a community that depends on these jobs. The proposed WELC rule would make it harder for me—and many others—to keep our jobs.

This rule could force responsible companies to shut down wells that still have value. That's not just bad for business—it's bad for workers, families, and communities like mine. We encourage you to consider rules that are not overreaching and to better utilize the Reclamation Fund.

Please consider the real-world impact this rule would have on the people who make New Mexico's energy economy work.

Sincerely,

Bradley Bishop  
402 W Pecan Ave  
Lovington, NM 88260-2700  
[bbishop@mewbourne.com](mailto:bbishop@mewbourne.com)  
575-390-6838

**From:** [Preston Miles](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.  
**Date:** Thursday, November 6, 2025 8:53:16 AM

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Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing as someone who works in the oil and gas industry and lives in a community that depends on these jobs. The proposed WELC rule would make it harder for me—and many others—to keep our jobs.

This rule could force responsible companies to shut down wells that still have value. That's not just bad for business—it's bad for workers, families, and communities like mine. We encourage you to consider rules that are not overreaching and to better utilize the Reclamation Fund.

Please consider the real-world impact this rule would have on the people who make New Mexico's energy economy work.

Sincerely,

Preston Miles  
2092 Avenida De Las Alturas Santa Fe, NM  
Santa Fe, NM 87505-5475  
[preston@federalabstractco.com](mailto:preston@federalabstractco.com)  
575-840-7782

**From:** [Kerry Egan](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.  
**Date:** Thursday, November 6, 2025 8:37:15 AM

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Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm concerned that the proposed WELC rule may unintentionally increase the number of orphaned wells in New Mexico. If the cost of operating or transferring wells becomes too high, companies may walk away leaving behind wells that could have been responsibly managed or plugged. We saw this happen with Colorado's recent overreaching rules.

We all want to protect our land and water, but blanket mandates that don't account for the realities of field operations could do more harm than good. Let's work together to create rules that encourage responsible stewardship, not abandonment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kerry Egan  
1408 Hiawatha Dr NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112  
Albuquerque, NM 87112-4634  
k-le@live.com  
575-302-9997

**From:** [JuleandDaryl Firestone](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, November 6, 2025 7:57:14 AM

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Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

Millions are sitting idly, and I request that the red tape be cut and the dollars deployed. The problem isn't funding—it's oversight and execution.

Instead of imposing blanket mandates that could harm smaller operators and local economies, we should be asking why the current system isn't working and why the State isn't using the tools and funds it already has.

New Mexicans deserve clean air, safe water, and a strong economy, and the state must do its part to plug the wells with the funds the Legislature has designated

JuleandDaryl Firestone  
68 Road 5290, FARMINGTON NM 87401  
Farmington, NM 87401  
[waiting4theking@msn.com](mailto:waiting4theking@msn.com)  
505-860-9628

**From:** [Michael Miller](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, November 6, 2025 4:47:24 AM

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Dear OCD Hearings,

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Michael Miller  
715 deer dsncer dr  
Aztec, NM 87410-2087  
[phoneman22@live.com](mailto:phoneman22@live.com)  
505-801-1563



**From:** [Dianna Dupont](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 5, 2025 11:50:39 PM

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Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

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Dianna Dupont  
1003 Galvan Drive  
Las Cruces, NM 88005-1502  
[diadup@yahoo.com](mailto:diadup@yahoo.com)  
214-458-6256

**From:** [anne mckinney](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 5, 2025 8:26:14 PM

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Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

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Sincerely,

anne mckinney  
6925 White Pine Pl Ne  
Albuquerque, NM 87109-4065  
[annemckinney@gmail.com](mailto:annemckinney@gmail.com)  
505-463-7073

**From:** [Julio Bueno](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 5, 2025 7:37:47 PM

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Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

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Julio Bueno  
433 Pacific Ave SW  
Albuquerque, NM 87102-4166  
[Juliobueno81@gmail.com](mailto:Juliobueno81@gmail.com)  
720-883-5775

**From:** [Steve Van Camp](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 5, 2025 6:02:41 PM

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Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm concerned that the proposed WELC rule may unintentionally increase the number of orphaned wells in New Mexico. If the cost of operating or transferring wells becomes too high, companies may walk away leaving behind wells that could have been responsibly managed or plugged. We saw this happen with Colorado's recent overreaching rules.

We all want to protect our land and water, but blanket mandates that don't account for the realities of field operations could do more harm than good. Let's work together to create rules that encourage responsible stewardship, not abandonment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Steve Van Camp  
1920 Chisholm dr Guymon OK  
Guymon, OK 73942-3039  
[vancamps77@icloud.com](mailto:vancamps77@icloud.com)  
620-391-8208

**From:** [BILL BILL](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 5, 2025 5:50:38 PM

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Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

As a New Mexican who cares deeply about our environment and economy, I urge you to direct the Oil Conservation Division to utilize the Reclamation Fund and stop allowing millions to sit idly in the state's coffers.

This fund was created to safeguard our land and water, not to be absorbed into the general budget. There's enough money to do the job, and it should be utilized to as expeditiously as possible.

We don't need new mandates that hurt small businesses—we need accountability and responsible stewardship of public resources. Let's make sure the tools we already have are being used effectively.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

BILL BILL  
1044 Mechem Dr 1044 Mechem Dr  
Ruidoso, NM 88345-7043  
[ruiman@zianet.com](mailto:ruiman@zianet.com)  
505-211-4112

**From:** [Ellison Erin](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 5, 2025 5:36:16 PM

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Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

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New Mexicans deserve clean air, safe water, and a strong economy, and the state must do its part to plug the wells with the funds the Legislature has designated

Ellison Erin  
po box 233  
Shiprock, NM 87420-0233  
[norahallison782@gmail.com](mailto:norahallison782@gmail.com)  
505-406-3224

**From:** [Sharon Speruggio Wright](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 5, 2025 4:43:41 PM

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Sharon Speruggio Wright  
1203 MIRADOR LOOP NE  
Rio Rancho, NM 87144-5327  
[akkadian90001@msn.com](mailto:akkadian90001@msn.com)  
617-281-5257

**From:** [Ryan Ross](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 5, 2025 4:35:18 PM

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Ryan Ross  
56 W Arroyo Alamo  
Española, NM 87532-9492  
[rnr55@yahoo.com](mailto:rnr55@yahoo.com)  
505-692-9949



**From:** [Cindia Garrett](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 5, 2025 4:35:18 PM

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Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

Millions are sitting idly, and I request that the red tape be cut and the dollars deployed. The problem isn't funding—it's oversight and execution.

Instead of imposing blanket mandates that could harm smaller operators and local economies, we should be asking why the current system isn't working and why the State isn't using the tools and funds it already has.

New Mexicans deserve clean air, safe water, and a strong economy, and the state must do its part to plug the wells with the funds the Legislature has designated

Cindia Garrett  
6201 South Gasper Street  
Hobbs, NM 88240-8510  
[cindiagarrett@aol.com](mailto:cindiagarrett@aol.com)  
575-408-0789

**From:** [Linda Wells-Cooke](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 5, 2025 3:43:19 PM

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Dear OCD Hearings,

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Linda Wells-Cooke  
414 E 23rd St Space 8  
Roswell, NM 88201-6473  
[lindacooke370@gmail.com](mailto:lindacooke370@gmail.com)  
575-317-8590

**From:** [Bruce Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, November 6, 2025 2:59:14 PM

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Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

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Instead of imposing blanket mandates that could harm smaller operators and local economies, we should be asking why the current system isn't working and why the State isn't using the tools and funds it already has.

New Mexicans deserve clean air, safe water, and a strong economy, and the state must do its part to plug the wells with the funds the Legislature has designated

Bruce Johnson  
3926 N. Dal Paso  
Hobbs, NM 88240-1515  
[bcjohnson1957@yahoo.com](mailto:bcjohnson1957@yahoo.com)  
575-552-3481

**From:** [reynalionz13@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:reynalionz13@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Gin Justice](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683  
**Date:** Thursday, November 6, 2025 6:15:02 AM

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Dear Commission Clerk Sheila Apodaca,

In Case No. 24683, the state has an opportunity to solve the growing problem of oil and gas infrastructure that needs to be closed and cleaned up as wells and facilities age and complete operations.

Cleanup is important for public health and safety and is an opportunity for a source of good-paying jobs in the southeast and northwest parts of the state. Oftentimes, hardworking, New Mexican families are left on the hook to cover the cleanup costs of abandoned or orphaned wells. We need to change current laws and rules with incentives to close and clean up low- or nonproducing wells and prevent toxic chemicals like methane and benzene from seeping into groundwater and polluting the air. Currently the oil and gas industry's "insurance coverage" for cleanup doesn't include enough funding to address the actual costs.

As a caregiver concerned about toxic pollution, I'm calling on you to update how much "insurance coverage" the oil and gas industry must take out before drilling. This will create new jobs and protect New Mexicans' health, air, land, and water.

Specifically, we need to update

1. financial assurance laws to require bonds that fully cover the costs of cleanup and well-plugging for each well.
2. cleanup laws and how wells are categorized to clarify who is responsible for plugging and cleanup when wells stop producing.
3. oversight of ownership transfers that will ensure companies have the financial resources to properly clean up and plug well sites.

Recent polling shows that an overwhelming 90% of New Mexicans support requiring oil and gas companies, rather than taxpayers, to pay for all the cleanup and land restoration costs after drilling is finished. Please modernize our woefully outdated laws.

Sincerely,  
Gin Justice  
3600 Corrales Rd Corrales, NM 87048-9130  
[reynalionz13@gmail.com](mailto:reynalionz13@gmail.com)

**From:** [Oshana Spring](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Judy Higginson Thoughts on WELC  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 5, 2025 3:23:08 PM

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Good Day Commissioners., Thank you for hearing the concerns of New Mexicans on this issue.

I have lived in Santa Fe since 1981 where I got married and raised a family. Prior to that I was born in a once upon a time the very oil rich state of Pennsylvania.

I was very distressed to hear that the needed money to open a well ,if this proposal goes through, will be so enormous. I am a retired woman with a relatively fixed income which so far has allowed me to have the necessities; however, if this proposal is made mandatory, I and many in my position will have an extremely difficult time actually surviving. As well as being 83 years old I also have macular degeneration which curtails having most jobs as seeing is quite the necessity.

Obviously this increase to start drilling a well far exceeds that which an average well driller would be able to manifest. . Small businesses can not survive this increase to open a well and therefore may vanish. In the absence of these small businesses, the remaining businesses might not be able to keep up with our energy needs. which would raise prices drastically .

In a trickle down economy we the people will suffer and in general I would imagine that many of us now able to buy food and heat for our homes might face severe consequences with such increases in the oil and gas business which basically affects everything including the very necessary food on the table.

Thank you for considering the results of this proposal in the real life scenario of a retired New Mexican.

Thank you for considering this perspective, Judy Higginson

--

All truth passes through three stages:

First, it is ridiculed;

Second, it is violently opposed; and

Third, it is accepted as self-evident.

Arthur Schopenhauer (1788-1860)

**From:** [John Pollard](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] New Mexico OCC 24683  
**Date:** Thursday, November 6, 2025 5:59:25 PM

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Dear New Mexico Oil Conservation Committee.

Thank you for taking my comment today.

My name is John Pollard. I have been living in the Lea and Eddy County area for about 12 years now. I got my start in the Oil and gas industry as a wellsite geologist, eventually changing careers, and after years of working in regulatory compliance and safety management for oil and gas contractors, I became a consultant and an insurance producer. In 2019, I also started a fire protection business serving oil and gas customers, as well as other commercial industries ranging from aerospace to commercial restaurant operations in New Mexico and Texas.

With a really firm pulse on the oil and gas industry and local economies, I can assure you that any regulations on the oil and gas industry can really apply a lot of pressure to small operators. I think we can all agree that the last thing we should do as a collective, is give the power of energy production in America to a small group of large corporations. Also, with other states to compete with, and 90% of New Mexico's public education system being funded by oil and gas, any loss of revenue would for certain adversely affect our programs. I could understand if there was supplemental tax revenue for the state, but there isn't. Any oil and gas jobs and production moving to Texas would be detrimental to the state's revenue. In addition, as someone who's witnessed the purchasing power of oil and gas employees and businesses, spending their money here in the New Mexican services sector, any regulations would be a detriment to the state's economy. Another point I must make is that America needs a competitive advantage on energy. We're competing with serious polluters like China and Russia. All withstanding, lower energy costs are strong for national security. Lives are at stake. Subsequently, I would like to state for the record that I have visited 1000's of oil and gas locations and I have never seen anything even remotely close to a disastrous environmental spill. As someone who's had close ties with oil and gas contractors and close ties with the policies of oil and gas operators, I can assure you that the culture in America has changed over the last 40 years. The oil and gas industry has become progressively more environmentally conscious. The United States extracts oil and gas cleaner and more environmentally conscious than anywhere in the world.

To respectfully close, I sincerely hope you consider the wide ranging negative effects that more regulations on the oil and gas industry in New Mexico will cause.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

John D. Pollard  
Mobile: +1 828.443.0080





**From:** [John Buchser](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] O & G Bonding changes - case 24683 - SUPPORT  
**Date:** Friday, November 7, 2025 9:35:27 AM

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My name is John Buchser. I live in the City of Santa Fe.

I support the proposed changing of bonding rules.

Our most important resource is our water. We must take care to protect it.

Current bonding rules provide a means of transferring low-producing oil and gas wells from major corporations with the resources to shut down those wells to other entities that probably do not have those resources.

In the meantime, our water and the health of our current and next generation are put at risk from leaking wells that have not been properly capped.

The cost of doing business should be on the industry that extracts oil and gas. Taxpayers should not be on the hook to tax all of us to protect our water.

We all benefit from the extraction of oil and gas. This benefit should not result in the pollution of our water.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

**From:** [Laurel Attardi](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] OCC Hearing Public Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, November 6, 2025 11:38:56 AM

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Dear Commissioners,

My name is Laurel Damron. I am a retired special education teacher in the state of NM. I retired from teaching in 2020 when Covid hit. I spent 24 of my 25 years as an educator in the state of New Mexico. I taught the last 21 years in the small town of Aztec (about 6,000 citizens). During this time period, I became very aware of the partnership between the oil and gas industry and education.

Every year on the first day of in-service and welcoming us back, the Aztec district would acknowledge all the recipients of the oil and gas grants that were submitted from the previous years. These grants would fund educational projects at every level from STEM projects in first grade classes to Quadratics in Motion at the high school levels. Millions of dollars were awarded to schools to carry out programs that the school budgets just could not accommodate. I watched this pattern year after year and was even awarded a grant for our high school math classes to diversify our approach with special education students in the regular education setting. Without these funds, our resources would have been very limited. This intricate connection between the oil and gas industry and education doesn't just happen in Aztec. It is widespread and truly elevates districts abilities to provide a higher level of learning than would otherwise be possible. It is unfortunate that NM is at the very bottom of the ladder when looking at education. I can't imagine the results our students would face without these extra monies for enriched learning.

If more stringent regulations are put into place on the oil and gas industry, it will undoubtedly have a negative impact on districts who receive these grants as well as individual teachers like me. The oil and gas industry would obviously need to look at where they could make cuts and changes. I fear that their generous donations to worthy causes in the school systems would be a targeted point of cuts. Anyone who knows a schoolteacher knows that we spend a lot of our own personal money to provide for students in the classroom. Pay is poor and yet the heart of teachers is for students to have their needs met. So, I honestly feel that without these much-needed grant monies, it will have a detrimental effect on classroom teachers all across the state as well as the educational system as a whole.

So, I ask that you consider educators like me when making decisions about these proposed regulations with oil and gas. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Laurel Damron  
Aztec Municipal Schools retiree

**From:** [Heather Karlson](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please implement the new oil and gas bonding and cleanup rules - Case No. 24683  
**Date:** Friday, November 7, 2025 9:29:57 AM

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I am writing to submit a comment on the NM Oil Conservation Commission Public Meeting on Case No. 24683.

I strongly support the new bonding and cleanup rules for abandoned oil and gas wells. These rules will modernize the requirements for cleanup and well plugging, protecting the New Mexico environment and our communities from pollution. The industry that created the pollution must be required to pay the costs to clean up their mess and plug all of their wells.

I urge the Commission to put the new rules in place, and protect our lands, air, and water.

Thank you.

Heather Karlson  
PO Box 8371  
Santa Fe, NM 87504

**From:** [Fiebelkorn, Tammy](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Comment - Case No. 24683  
**Date:** Thursday, November 6, 2025 9:21:23 AM

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Tammy Fiebelkorn  
Albuquerque City Councilor  
Public Comment to New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission  
Case No. 24683

Thank you for the opportunity to comment today. I serve on the Albuquerque City Council, representing New Mexicans who deeply value our landscapes and water resources, and expect leaders to act with fiscal responsibility and environmental integrity.

New Mexico is facing an estimated \$700 million to \$1.6 billion in oil and gas well cleanup liability. Under our current system, companies can drill wells without setting aside anywhere near the funds needed to clean them up later. When these wells are abandoned—as hundreds already have been—the cleanup costs fall to the public. In the past five years alone, over \$100 million in taxpayer and federal dollars have been spent plugging and restoring wells that industry walked away from. That's not fiscal responsibility—that's corporate subsidy.

The principle is simple: If you drill it, you clean it. Oil and gas corporations that profit from New Mexico's land and resources must also bear the responsibility of cleaning up after themselves. Our residents should not be the financial backstop for corporate negligence. The facts are clear: 89% of New Mexicans support requiring companies to pay for cleanup and restoration after drilling.

Current law caps bonding at just \$250,000 per operator – even for companies managing dozens or hundreds of wells. The average cost to plug and restore a well is \$163,000—and some can exceed \$700,000. We already have nearly 700 known abandoned wells with thousands more at risk of being abandoned without sufficient bonding.

Without reform, these numbers will only grow, leaving New Mexicans to pay for the damages. Meanwhile, abandoned wells leak methane and toxic pollutants, contaminating our water and threatening public health, wildlife, and even fire safety – particularly near Tribal and rural communities.

New Mexicans have cared for this land for generations. We can protect it for generations to

come through reforms that prioritize health, fairness, and fiscal responsibility. It's our job to act now, while the oil and gas industry is strong, to ensure that cleanup costs aren't left to future generations when the boom times fade. I urge the Commission to adopt stronger bonding rules and hold corporate polluters accountable.

Sincerely,

Tammy Fiebelkorn

Albuquerque City Councilor, District 7

[tfiebelkorn@cabq.gov](mailto:tfiebelkorn@cabq.gov)

<https://www.cabq.gov/council/find-your-councilor/district-7>

**From:** [Charlie Barrett](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public comment for bonding rulemaking  
**Date:** Thursday, November 6, 2025 6:50:29 AM

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As a thermographer and ecologist, my firsthand observations and research reveal that despite the implementation of new environmental regulations for oil and gas operations, there has been minimal, if any improvement in mitigating environmental degradation. I continue to document recurrent oil spills, persistent air emissions, and increasingly fragmented natural habitats—all critical indicators of environmental decline. These issues persist despite regulations intended to curb such harmful activities. It appears that these regulations are often weakened by compromises with industry interests, allowing polluters to maintain practices that adversely affect the environment.

Historical comparisons indicate that over the past few years, while regulatory frameworks may have changed on paper, the actual environmental conditions remain largely unchanged or become even worse.

Additionally, the current approach of partnering with industry—exemplified by a reliance on self-reporting and cooperative compliance orders—significantly contributes to this failure. My observations indicate that these measures enable operators to underreport pollution and often prioritize industry-friendly adjustments over the implementation of rigorous, enforceable rules. This cooperation diminishes the urgency necessary to address the full scope of environmental harm, as self-reported data frequently does not reflect the actual extent of oil-related incidents or ecological disruptions. The ongoing degradation of air quality, along with frequent oil spill events and habitat loss, suggests a trajectory that is worse than what was observed several years ago. To effectively mitigate the hazards posed by oil and gas operations, environmental policies must shift away from compromised, incremental measures and instead adopt a framework built on independent assessments, rigorous enforcement, and accountability free from undue industry influence.

While I support current efforts to modernize New Mexico's oil and gas cleanup rules, the pace of regulatory reform appears to be outstripped by on-the-ground realities. Despite the introduction of new rules, I continue to witness persistent environmental degradation. These conditions underscore that while rules are necessary, they cannot be effective if they rely on industry cooperation which tends to dilute accountability. New Mexico needs to follow science and develop a plan to phase out all fossil fuel use.

--

Charlie Barrett (He/Him)  
Las Cruces, New Mexico  
Thermographer and Field Ecologist  
[charlie@oilfieldwitness.org](mailto:charlie@oilfieldwitness.org)  
Ph: 432-294-2006  
Thermographer Certification #140953649

**From:** [Craig Hammond](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] public comment for hearing 24683  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 5, 2025 6:47:37 PM

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Dear Oil Conservation Committee,

I would like to register my opinion regarding the oil and gas bonding issue. I had planned to speak in person, but multiple scheduling changes did not allow it. Thank you for all you do to protect our environment.

Craig Hammond

My name is Craig Hammond, and I'm a resident of Santa Fe County. I thank the Committee for taking up this rule making.

I support increasing bond rates to fully cover the actual, current cost of plugging exhausted wells and remediating the land around them. Tax payers should not be accountable for any of these expenses.

If increased bonding rates make low producing wells unprofitable, so be it. Bad business propositions shouldn't be made profitable through the use of taxpayer dollars.

The sale of low-producing wells should be contingent upon the buyer being able to meet appropriate bonding terms.

I urge the committee to update bonding rates and hold the oil and gas industry responsible for complete clean-up of all retired wells.

Thank you.



**From:** [wendy atcitty](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Cc:** [wendy atcitty](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Comment on Reference Case No. 24683  
**Date:** Friday, November 7, 2025 9:59:57 AM

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Hello NM Oil Conservation Commission

I am submitting my public comment by writing as the window to attend virtually as I logged onto Microsoft Teams at 9:30 AM and stated it was closed to the hearing on November 7.

Hello, my name is Wendy Atcitty and I grew up in San Juan County. I saw oil and gas development my whole life in all its stages of planning, drilling, running, and abandoned. It was only till reaching adulthood that I began to understand the full picture of oil and gas impacts to the health of people and the environment. My family has lived in the eastern side of the Navajo Nation where there are over 13 oil and gas developments two miles from our homesite, which just yesterday a new rig was put up to make it 14. I have only seen once in the region an orphan well being plugged up, but many sit there remaining to be the monument that it made someone else's life benefit in monetary means but lays still slowly emitting any remnants of pollution to life living around it seeing it day to day. We see the trucks tear up the dirt roads, as they still drive in the hard rains and don't come back to level the ground; we see oil and gas wells having herds of wild horses and cattle that walk over as there are no fences stopping them; I still hear the sounds of the these sites pumping on and off all day; my family getting headaches, nosebleeds, etc. as the nearby wells operated 24 hours a day at their peak time over 10 years ago; and finally smell the gases that escape as they are vented and fortunately not flared as it was a few years ago that brightened our night sky with huge flames and smells that disturbed the quietness of the sky.

I would like to have the oil and gas corporations in this state be held accountable to cleanup at full cost as we can't continue to not see what is seen of the legacy pollution this industry has caused around the rural and tribal lands. Being accountable would hold rules for plugging wells,, address orphaned/abandoned, and low producing wells for all stages of clean up.

In closing, the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission considered the new bonding and cleanup rules to bring up requirements to modernize outdated requirements and protect our land, air, water, and public health. Let's celebrate the beauty our state brings, ensuring protection and requirements to be upheld in all the state's agencies of working together to have oil and gas corporations be held accountable ensuring their accountability to safely clean up their mess.

Thank you,  
Wendy Atcitty  
Huerfano Navajo Tribal Member

**From:** [Leeondra Schuler](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public comment  
**Date:** Friday, November 7, 2025 3:43:14 PM

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New Mexico has held oil and gas corporations accountable for their pollution before, and we have to continue to stay on top of anyone doing business in our state. We do not benefit if we are stuck with the damage and have to pay for harm that out-of-staters cause while they extract our resources. State Land Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard's Accountability and Enforcement Program has held oil corporations accountable for cleaning up over 681 wells, saving at least \$68 million in public funds. We must work together to continue our demand that regulators enforce existing rules and create new ones that protect our air and water and ensure oil and gas corporations clean up their mess. Our children need us to protect their future, and it is not right to allow oil and gas to walk off with all the revenue while sticking New Mexican citizens with the cost of cleanup. We should not be subsidizing industries in ways that hurt our own people.

**From:** [Dolores Martin](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Case Number 42683  
**Date:** Friday, November 7, 2025 11:35:14 AM

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From: Dolores Martin  
429 Fontans Place NE, Albuquerque NM 87108

To: Sheila Apodaca, Commission Clerk

RE: Reference Case No. 24683

My comment is in support of the rule-making to modernize New Mexico's bonding and cleanup rules

I agree with these and other reasons why the bonding and cleanup rules must be modernized:

- If a company can't afford cleanup, they shouldn't be drilling.
- Taxpayers and public funds are currently paying for cleanup of abandoned wells. Nearly \$100 million of public funds have been used to plug abandoned oil and gas wells in the last 5 years.
- Stronger bonding levels the playing field for responsible operators.
- The vast majority of wells in New Mexico are owned by wealthy corporations who can afford to follow the law and plug their wells.
- At its core, the job of the government is to protect the public from harm.
- Reform will reduce future liabilities and protect the Reclamation Fund.
- We cannot afford to under-fund risk, especially when the cost of inaction falls on our communities.

Even though all policies are enacted upon due to immediate need, push, or profit for the wealthy, we, as a nation and in particular, here in New Mexico, a State well-represented by diverse ethnicities, have the opportunity to craft eloquent responses to today's pressing needs by outright honoring the Native idea of planning for the 7th generation: we have to start sometime acting like a sentient species by imagining long-term policies that uplift human dignity, all living species, and our planet. These words are not poetry. They are not naive thinking. With these words, I'm trying to capture the foundational essence for policy-making even if no one else is doing it this way, and even if we - as a species - are too late. Doing the right thing is never too late.

Thank you for your time reading this comment

D Martin

**From:** [lintoncrow@1791.com](mailto:lintoncrow@1791.com)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Ronald Linton OCC Hearing Public Comment  
**Date:** Friday, November 7, 2025 1:07:39 PM

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My name is Ronald Linton and have lived in in New Mexico for 60yrs. I originally am from Texas, studied art at the University of Texas as well as an extension of the Guggenheim Institute at Northwood University, Texas. I now do primarily art jewelry and do juried art shows nationally. I am an avid motorcyclist and live on 40acres just outside of Santa Fe and am off the grid, have my own well, solar power and use propane for heat and cooking. I have three sources of heat for my home and propane powers two of them, the forced air and wall heaters leaving wood burning heat from a glass front fire box. My primary concern of course is cost, if it rises dramatically what do I need to set aside as reserve funds and plan out winter expenses. Increased regulations always create higher costs that pass down to consumers. This affects not only my personal finance but is a concern for others in my age group that are on a fixed income in retirement and even a slight upward pressure in cost means restraining spending on other necessities. I really appreciate the OCC and this opportunity to add my voice. Regulations can effect the traditional small business culture of family and generational operations that are the backbone of these rural economies, when they have to close due to costs this lifestyle will be lost. I urge the commission to consider my situation and the small producers that contribute to the unique Western culture.

**From:** [Sheryle Kuhnley](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Sheryle Kuhnley WELC Hearing comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 5, 2025 2:55:41 PM

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Dear Commissioners,

I am Sheryle Cavasos Kuhnley and am writing to the commission today because I am interested in supporting the oil and gas industries in New Mexico. They play a large part in the well-being of our state's schools, businesses and citizens.

My husband, Paul, is a native New Mexican, raised on a dairy farm in Moriarty. I am not a native but have lived in this state for over 60 years, and we raised our four children here, so I can make a claim to it. I attended the University of New Mexico here in Albuquerque, receiving my Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Education.

I am a retired APS math teacher and math coach. Knowing how much the public schools depend on the 2.3 billion dollars the industries bring to our state's schools gives me a strong appreciation for them.

I would like to see that amount increased for our schools but that won't happen if more regulations are already added to the oppressive regulations the industries are under.

So please consider someone like me when thinking about adding more regulations for the oil and gas industries.

Thank you very much for your service to our state,

Sheryle C Kuhnley

**From:** [Paul Perez](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] WELC OCC 24683  
**Date:** Thursday, November 6, 2025 5:34:06 PM

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Dear Oil Conservation Commission,

My name is Paul Perez, a proud lifelong New Mexican from the southern part of our state. After serving 20 years in active-duty military service, I returned home with a renewed appreciation for the values, culture, and resilience that make New Mexico so special. My wife and I chose to raise our family here and pursue new careers in education and home healthcare, continuing our commitment to service, now rooted in the communities that shaped us.

Growing up near the state's nuclear research facilities, I've long understood the critical role energy plays in our infrastructure, national security, and economic vitality. My background in government and the military has only reinforced my awareness of the essential need for reliable energy sources, particularly oil and gas, in sustaining both our state and our nation.

Today, I work in and around education and workforce development, helping to build training programs that prepare New Mexicans for meaningful careers. Much of this work is made possible by the revenue generated from our natural resources. Oil and gas are not just economic drivers — **they are lifelines for funding education, healthcare, and essential services across our communities.**

That's why I am deeply concerned about provisions of the current legislation that would curtail oil and gas production. These measures risk undermining the very foundation of our state's economy and jeopardizing the future of our workforce. Limiting production could accelerate the departure of our young talent and skilled professionals to other states with more robust opportunities.

This is a pivotal moment. The decisions made today will shape the opportunities available to future generations. I urge you to consider the broader implications of these proposals and to support policies that balance environmental stewardship with economic resilience.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Paul Perez

**From:** [Boone, Pat](#)  
**To:** [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Late Response from Senator Pat Boone District 27  
**Date:** Thursday, November 6, 2025 12:35:08 PM

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To Whom It May Concern;

Raising the bond rate to **\$150,000 per marginal well** would deal a devastating blow to New Mexico's independent oil and gas producers—the very men and women who have kept rural communities alive for generations. These small operators don't have the vast capital reserves of major corporations; they rely on steady production and reinvestment to stay afloat. A six-figure bond requirement per well would tie up critical operating funds that would otherwise go toward maintaining jobs, paying royalties to landowners, and keeping local economies moving. Many of these wells produce small but steady returns that feed local tax bases and support family livelihoods. Increasing the bond rate this drastically could force dozens of independents to shut down or sell out to large out-of-state companies, leaving fewer local jobs and less revenue circulating in our small towns.

Beyond the economic strain, such a policy would deepen the divide between corporate giants and community-based producers. The independent contractors who maintain these marginal wells are often the first to respond to local needs, contribute to volunteer fire departments, sponsor youth programs, and keep rural infrastructure running. By pricing them out of operation, the state would not just risk the loss of production—it would erode the very backbone of our energy workforce. Senator Pat Boone believes that responsible regulation should ensure accountability without destroying opportunity. The focus should be on solutions that promote cleanup and compliance **without bankrupting the small businesses** that sustain New Mexico's working families.

Please do the right thing and vote no to raising the bond rate. I thought we would not be raising bond rates if Royalty rates were raised...

Sincerely,

Senator Pat Boone



## House District 27