



State of New Mexico
House of Representatives
Santa Fe

MARIANNA ANAYA

D – Bernalillo, NM House District 18
805 Lafayette Dr. NE.
Albuquerque, NM 87106
Cell: (505) 907-5037
Email: marianna.anaya@nmlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:

CHAIR: Enrolling & Engrossing A
Health & Human Services
Labor, Veterans' & Military Affairs

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Dear Esteemed Commissioners,

I strongly support modernizing New Mexico's oil and gas bonding and cleanup rules.

Here's the bottom line: if you make a mess, you should clean it up — always.

A recent Associated Press investigation found more than 690 oil and gas wells within a mile of schools across New Mexico, exposing nearly 30,000 mostly Native and Hispanic students to harmful emissions. One study near Lybrook Elementary detected benzene levels nearly twice safe limits during school hours. These are the real consequences of weak oversight and outdated bonding.

Right now, companies can drill dozens of wells while posting bonds that cover only a fraction of cleanup costs. As a result, taxpayers have already paid over \$100 million to plug abandoned wells, and the state still faces up to \$1.6 billion in future liabilities.

This is about fairness and responsibility. In a recent statewide poll nearly nine in ten New Mexicans agreed that oil and gas companies should pay the full cost of cleanup.

I urge you to adopt stronger bonding rules to protect our air, water, and communities, and ensure no one profits while leaving the public with their mess.

With respect and appreciation,
Representative Marianna Anaya