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Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of New Mexico No False Solutions, we feel the importance of writing a letter to express our deep concern for community engagement regarding Case No. 25875 and the proposed regulations related to Class VI wells and the pursuit of state primacy.

Each and every one of you on the Commission is not simply deciding whether to move forward with a rulemaking – you are deciding whether New Mexicans will have a meaningful role in shaping decisions that could permanently affect our water, land, climate, and public health.

We strongly urge the Commission to hold a full, formal public hearing and to guarantee opportunities for public comment through the rulemaking process. Any decision to consider adopting this rule must be grounded in transparency, accountability, and community input. Communities most impacted by these decisions must be meaningfully engaged from the very beginning. Public comment must be accessible, adequately noticed, multilingual, and structured to allow for dialogue.

Communities across New Mexico have seen time and again what happens when regulatory processes move forward without free, informed, and prior consent – promises of safety and oversight give way to contamination, health harms, and regulatory capture. The pursuit of Class VI primacy must not become yet another pathway for fast-tracking false solutions that extend the life of the fossil fuel industry while shifting even more risk onto our communities.

We also want to make it clear that “climate solutions” that rely on extending the life of the fossil fuel industry are false solutions. New Mexico needs a just transition rooted in community-led energy democracy, land and water protection, and investments that prioritize our communities – not corporate profits. Any regulatory pathway that undermines these goals deserves rigorous public challenge.

We call on the Oil Conservation Commission to honor the voices of New Mexicans who have long been excluded from decision-making, to commit to a participatory rulemaking process, and to reject any approach that sacrifices our communities for the convenience of industry.

We expect a process that respects our voices and our right to shape the future of New Mexico.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

In solidarity,
New Mexico No False Solutions