



State of New Mexico
House of Representatives
Santa Fe

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November 21, 2007

Cabinet Secretary Joanna Prukop
1220 S St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Secretary Prukop:

The importance of the oil and gas industry to the lives of my fellow New Mexicans should be protected with diligent efforts by state officials. With all due respect to the important cabinet position held by you, I must express my deepest concern over the proposed amendment to the oil and gas pit rule.

Finding the correct balance between environmental concerns and the need for satisfying America's energy demands will continue to challenge all of us. We all understand the need for long-term protection of our environment. This must be balanced by reasonable and value-added regulation that does not impede or eliminate the ability of our state's oil and gas producers to successfully compete in a global economy.

After researching and discussing this matter with several oil and gas professionals I am compelled to ask you to call for the end of the proposed amendment. The additional costs to the industry do not appear to be worth the minimal, if any, additional environmental protection the proposed pit rules would provide.

The alternative is for the state to work more closely with the oil and gas industry and respect the education, knowledge, and skills of the professionals involved. I am confident the state can find suitable, less costly and more effective environmental protection by doing so. The regulation as proposed would never survive in the legislative process, and as such should not be imposed by the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division given the questionable value of the rule. Choosing to work more closely with the industry will only benefit the people and of New Mexico and the citizens of District 61 that I have promised to represent.

Sincerely,

Shirley A Tyler
Representative District 61