From: <u>Daniel Archuleta</u>
To: <u>Hearings, OCC, EMNRD</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment

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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

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