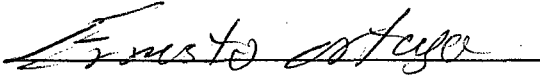


Governor Richardson:

Please accept this correspondence as a form of protest concerning the Oil Conservation Department's application for rule making in reference to adopting a new rule concerning pits and below grade tanks. After studying this proposed rule it is very apparent that it was extremely costly to the oil and gas industry, while not providing reciprocal environmental benefits. If the increase in cost based upon this rule is \$150,000 per well site, we will see an exodus of drilling equipment, personnel and money crossing over the state line into Texas.

The significant negative economic impact on our community and county is potentially devastating. I encourage you to revisit these proposed rules and come to a consensus between groups that will protect the environment while allowing drilling programs to continue in New Mexico, it can be done using sound science and common sense.


Signature

Printed Name:	<u>Ernesto Ortega</u>
Address:	<u>200 W Ave Q</u>
City:	<u>Lawington</u> St: <u>NM</u> Zip: <u>88260</u>

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Printed Name:	<u>Sheila Huffaker</u>
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