Re: For climate, health, and communities, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management must reject new oil and gas leasing in New Mexico

Dear State Director Barnes:

We are writing to request that the Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") cancel its plans to auction off 10,123 acres of public lands administered by the New Mexico State Office to the oil and gas industry on May 25, 2023.

We are shocked and dismayed that in spite of a clear scientific, political, and public consensus that action for the climate requires we begin to phase out fossil fuels, the BLM is continuing the legacy of sacrifice zones in New Mexico by moving forward with the auction of additional public and ancestral lands to more oil and gas leasing and drilling.

President Biden promised to end new oil and gas leasing on public lands. We would like this promise to be honored. The federal government, including the President himself, has a moral and ethical imperative to confront the climate crisis. The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report reveals that our window to address catastrophic impacts is narrowing. Quick action is required to phase out fossil fuels and BLM must play a leadership role in addressing greenhouse gas emissions from extraction in New Mexico's Permian Basin and Greater Chaco regions which contribute to worldwide warming.

Continuing to sacrifice public lands for more fracking is taking a costly toll on clean air, pure water, and healthy lands. In fueling the climate crisis, oil and gas extraction is also contributing to more extreme weather, severe and more destructive wildfires, and intense flooding. The public health toll of oil and gas extraction is incalculable. More extraction will perpetuate environmental injustice in the New Mexico State Office, disproportionately threatening the health, safety, and well-being of people of color, Tribal and Indigenous communities, and families with fewer means.

You have received numerous protests challenging the legality and sensibility of more oil and gas leasing in the New Mexico State Office. Our groups have delivered millions of public comments challenging BLM oil and gas lease sales, and we continue to protest in person at BLM offices, as we have done since 2016, despite BLM moving these oil and gas auctions online and away from public engagement. We ask that you finally take these protests to heart and grant the requested relief.
We urge you to do the right thing and cancel the proposed oil and gas lease sale and stop leasing public and ancestral lands for extraction. The BLM New Mexico State Office can help lead a just transition that protects our environment and cares for future generations. BLM has the authority to control rates of oil and gas production, and immediately begin phasing out fossil fuels on public lands. The New Mexico State Office knows what is required to protect people and the planet. Please listen to the public instead of private interests at the expense of public health and safety.

Respectfully,

Susan Penner, Co-Chair of Legislative Working Group
1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations

Rachael Lehman, Chair, Healthy Communities
I-70 Citizens Advisory Group

Ken McDonnell, Member Representative
350 Central Mass

Micah Parkin, Executive Director
350 Colorado

Alan Weiner, Chapter Lead
350 Conejo & San Fernando Valley

Diane Hodiak, Executive Director
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Karen Bearden, 350 Triangle Coordinator
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Debra Campbell, Chairperson
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ABQ Neighborhood Voices, Editor
ABQ Neighborhood Voices

Karen Bueno, Leaders Team Member
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Kat D’Orazio, Small Business Owner
Aces Tattoos, Albuquerque

Maayan Cohen, Director of Partnerships & Youth Leadership
Action for the Climate Emergency (ACE)

Gene Braverock, Actor
Movies: Wonder Woman, Montana Story

Varada Sethu, Actor
Movies: Jurassic World Dominion, I Came By, TV: Andor

Nicole Cantello, President
AFGE Local 704

Kevin Shockey, Executive Director
Ahora
Donna Detweiler, Faith in Action Co-Elder  
Albuquerque Mennonite Church

Joseph Zupon, Executive Director  
Amigos Bravos

Sarah Stewart, President  
Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc.

Harriet Festing, Executive Director  
Anthropocene Alliance

Megan Jacobs, Artist

David Martin Valencia, Artist

Victoriano Cardenas, Artist, New Mexico Poet and 2022 ABQ CityMaker

Ash, Organizer  
Ash With Earth

Nodia Brent, Owner Operator  
Back in the Temple

Ashley Mooyer, Musician and Owner  
Beatbox Beauty Co. New Mexico

Patricia Alessandrini, Representative  
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Lilias Jarding, PhD, Executive Director  
Black Hills Clean Water Alliance

Carolyn Sinor, Owner  
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Beata Tsosie and Belin Marcus, Co-Directors  
Breath of My Heart Birthplace

Shelby Kaye, Small Business Owner  
Broken Arrow Glass Recycling New Mexico

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Businesses for a Livable Climate

Marie Venner & Stef Klass, Co-Chairs  
Call to Action Colorado

Mark Meeks, Minister  
Capitol Heights Presbyterian

Rose Marie Cecchini, MM, Director  
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Catholic Charities of Gallup Diocese

Stephanie Klass & Marie Venner, Co-Chairs, Founders  
Catholic Network US

Soni Grant, New Mexico Campaigner  
Center for Biological Diversity

Isaac De Luna Navarro, Communications Director  
Center for Civic Policy

Anson Wright, Coordinator  
Chaco Alliance

A Martin, Director  
ChiResists - Chicago Solidarity Network

Deb Katz, Executive Director  
Citizens Awareness Network

Kaley Shoup, Community Organizer  
Citizens Caring for the Future

Katherine Golub, City Councilor Greenfield, Massachusetts

Suzanne Hume, Educational Director and Founder  
CleanEarth4Kids.org
Sharon Fisher, President
The Clinch Coalition

Sara Zimmerman, Executive Director
Climate Equity Policy Center

Haley, Ehlers, Director
Climate First: Replacing Oil & Gas (CFROG)

Judith Green, Co-Founder and Author
Climate Friendly Lifestyle

Gabriella Velardi-Ward, Co-Founder and Director
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Andrew Black, Reverend
EarthKeepers 360
Kendra Pinto, Four Corners Indigenous Community Field Advocate
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Georgia Cam, CEO
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Roger Luckmann, Coordinator
Elders Climate Action

Tara Thornton, Deputy Director
Endangered Species Coalition

Tara Armijo-Prewitt, Entomologist and Photographer

Melissa Willis, Farmer
Ever Growing Farm New Mexico

Josh Mark Rozendaal, Allies Coordinator
Extinction Rebellion NYC

Antonio, Student
Farm Share Austin

Katherine Aybar, Farmer New Mexico

Katie Jones, Farmer

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Jamie Valdez, Organizing Quail Mothers Out Front Colorado

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Joseph Salack, Musician

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Prickly Pear Cactus Festival

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Progressives for Climate

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Paula Castillo Sculpture Sculpture
Lucas Herndon, Energy Policy Director
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**Regeneration Ranch**

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**Rick Fausto Art**

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**Rio Grande Waterkeeper**

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**River Rinehart Hide Tanning**

Bobbe Besold, Artist and Activist
**Rivers Run Through Us**

Mike Eisenfeld, Energy and Climate Program Manager
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**San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council**

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**Save EPA (former employees)**

Jeff White, Founder
**Save Our Blue World**

Dawne Dunton, Founder
**Saving Island Green Wildlife & Beyond**

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Terry Sloan, Director  
Southwest Native Cultures

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Albuquerque Public Schools

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Giselle Piburn, Teacher

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C. David Day, Small Business Owner  
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Tewa Women United

Robin Schneider, Executive Director  
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Three Sisters Collective

Christopher Ramirez, Executive Director  
Together for Brothers (T4B)
Corva Rose, Small Business Owner
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Joanie Steinhaus, Gulf Program Director
Turtle Island Restoration Network

United Graduate Workers of UNM
UGW-UE 1466, United Graduate Workers of University of New Mexico

Quanah Parker Brightman, Executive Director
United Native Americans

Fran Aguirre, President
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Terry Lowman, Representative
Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community

Kineo Memmer, Director of Communication and Outreach
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Vicki Eckerdt, Veterinary Technician
Vicki’s Dog Grooming est.1978 Lincoln County, NM

Jean Ross, Board President
Vote Climate

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Wall of Women

Mark Leclaire, Member
We Are One River

Ally Beasley, Staff Attorney
Western Environmental Law Center

Chris Calwell, Co-Chair
Western Slope Businesses for a Livable Planet

Jeremy Nichols, Climate and Energy Program Director
WildEarth Guardians

Elisabeth Dicharry, Director
Wildlife Conservation Advocacy Southwest

Kristen Woods, Co Executive Director
Wise Fool New Mexico

Renée M. Chacon, Executive Director,
Co-Founder
Womxn From The Mountain

Pat Arreguin, Communications and Engagement
Working Classroom

Anna Ramirez, Staff
Working for Racial Equity

Jon Anderholm, Director and Teacher
Xun Biosphere Project

Zephyr Jaramillo, Campaign Organizer
YUCCA - Youth United for Climate Crisis Action

Zanagee Artis, Co-Executive Director and Policy Director
Zero Hour

Timea Marie Eckerdt, Community Health Educator
ZIA LIFE

Melanie Kirby, Beekeeper and Extension Educator
Zia Queenbees
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