

May 25, 2023

Melanie Barnes  
New Mexico State Director  
U.S. Bureau of Land Management  
301 Dinosaur Trail  
Santa Fe, NM 87508

**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  
**350 Deschutes**

Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder  
**350 Hawaii**

Thomas Solomon, Co-Coordinator  
**350 New Mexico**

Sandra Adams, Director  
**350 Pensacola**

Katie McCammoon, Communications & Volunteer Coordinator  
**350 Sacramento**

Karen Bearden, 350 Triangle Coordinator  
**350 Triangle**

Debra Campbell, Chairperson  
**A Community Voice**

ABQ Neighborhood Voices, Editor  
**ABQ Neighborhood Voices**

Karen Bueno, Leaders Team Member  
**Accelerate Neighborhood Climate Action**

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  
**Bergen County Green Party**

Lilias Jarding, PhD, Executive Director  
**Black Hills Clean Water Alliance**

Carolyn Sinor, Owner  
**Blue Moon Marketplace New Mexico**

Beata Tsosie and Belin Marcus, Co-Directors  
**Breath of My Heart Birthplace**

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

Marie Venner, Co-Chair  
**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  
Office of Peace, Justice & Creation  
**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

**Coalition for Wetlands and Forests**

Esther Harrison, Owner

**Coeur & Art**

Marie Venner & Jim Smith, Co-Chairs

**CO Businesses for a Livable Climate**

Akalei Brown, Executive Director

**Colorado Native Organization**

Elaine Cimino, Director

**Common Ground Rising**

Fred Kirsch, Director

**Community for Sustainable Energy**

Michelle Smith, Marketing Director

**The Community In-Power and Development Association**

Barbara W Bandom, MD , Steering Committee Member

**Concerned Health Professionals of Pennsylvania**

Endion Schichtel, Ring Leader

**Conservation Carnivale**

Demis Foster, Executive Director

**Conservation Voters New Mexico**

Jennifer Patterson, Founder

**Corpus Ritual Inc.**

Janice Lucero, Founder

**Cotton Blossom Gardens**

Teresa Seamster, Medical Researcher

**Counselor Chapter Health Committee**

Eileen O'shaughnessy, Organizer

**Demand Nuclear Abolition**

Nicole Maestas Olonovich, Political Director

**Democratic Party New Mexico Adelante**

**Progressive Caucus**

Kara Deyhle, Small Business Owner

**Desert River Farm**

Robyn Jackson, Executive Director

**Diné Citizens Against Ruining Our Environment**

Chrissie Waquie, Secretary

**Diné Medicine Men Association**

Charles Goodmacher, Founder

**Do Good LLC**

Stephen Brittle, President

**Don't Waste Arizona**

Aline Castelan, Campaign & Projects Director

**Dreams in Action NM**

Mary Gutierrez, Director

**Earth Action, Inc.**

Andrew Black, Reverend

**EarthKeepers 360**

Kendra Pinto, Four Corners Indigenous  
Community Field Advocate

**Earthworks**

Bianca Sopoci-Belknap, Co-Director

**Earth Care International**

Mary Gutierrez, Director

**Earth Ethics, Inc.**

Georgia Cam, CEO

**Earthly Education**

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**

Sue Joiner, Reverend

**First Congregational United Church of Christ**

Nancy Shane, Co-Chair

**First Unitarian Earth Web**

Alexa Moore, New Mexico Organizer

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**Fossil Free California**

Margarita Mercure, Co-Founder

**Frack Free Four Corners**

Rebecca Sobel, Coordinator

**Frack Free New Mexico**

Shannon Smith, Executive Director

**FracTracker Alliance**

Organizing Committee

**Fridays for Future Orange County**

Katharina Maier, National Coordinator

**Fridays for Future US**

Raena Garcia, Senior Fossil Fuels and Lands  
Campaigner

**Friends of the Earth**

Mary Shesgreen, Chair

**Fox Valley Citizens for Peace & Justice**

Gita McCutcheon, Proprietor

**Gita Group**

Genie Stevens, Executive Director

**Global Warming Express**

Patricia Wood, Executive Director

**Grassroots Environmental Education**

Shelley Silber, Executive Director

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Bridget Walsh, Chair  
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**GreenLatinos**

Harmony Cummings, Co-Founder  
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Krystyna Gonzalez, Member  
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**Honor the Earth**

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**Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.**

Monica Esparza, Representative  
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Rayellen Smith, President  
**Indivisible Albuquerque**

Philip Beck, Co-Founder  
**Indivisible Ambassadors**

Rev. Dr. Holly Beaumont, Organizing Director  
**Interfaith Worker Justice - New Mexico**

Sophia Rose Burns, Small Business Owner  
**La Abeja Herbs**

Nancy Singham, Writer  
**Land Witness Project**

Doug Henderson & Ed Behan, Representatives  
**Larimer Alliance for Health, Safety and  
Environment**

Pat Leahan, Co-Director  
**Las Vegas New Mexico Peace & Justice Center**

Leondra Clayton, Entrepreneur  
**Leecooks Church, Taos**

Brad Weikel, Founder  
**Little Green Bucket**

Patrick Santana, Chair  
**Littleton Business Alliance**

Halley Strongwater, Small Business Owner  
**Loam Earth**

Ryan Madden, Sustainability Organizer  
**Long Island Progressive Coalition**

Sarah Robertson, Small Business Owner  
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Kurt Rager, Director  
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Carmen Medrano, Small Business Owner  
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**Media Alliance**

Amy Petré Hill, Founder and Community  
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Susanne Brown, Writer  
**Mid Rio Grande Times**

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**Montbello Neighborhood Improvement  
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Cynthia Robertson, Executive Director  
**Micah Six Eight Mission**

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Lauren Swain, Executive Director, Founder  
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Jamie Valdez, Organizing Quail  
**Mothers Out Front Colorado**

Pennie Opal Plant, Co-Founder  
**Movement Rights**

Mitch Buszek, Director  
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Alex McCue, **Musician**

Joseph Salack, **Musician**

Emily Wolf, New Mexico Senior Program  
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Jennifer Fairbanks, Communications Director  
**Native Organizers Alliance**

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**New Energy Economy**

Sachi Watase, Executive Director  
**New Mexico Asian Family Center**

Anni Hanna, Director  
**New Mexico Climate Justice**

Virginia Necochea, Executive Director  
**New Mexico Environmental Law Center**

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**New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light**

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**New Mexicans for Utility Safety**

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**New Mexico Women's March**

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**New Mexico School Yoga**

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**NM No False Solutions Coalition**

Lisa Christopherson, Organizer  
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Kristi Douglas, Commerce City Councilor and  
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**North Range Concerned Citizens**

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**Northern NM SURJ** (Standing Up for Racial  
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**Nuclear Energy Information Service**

Salley Jane Gellert, Representative  
**Occupy Bergen County**

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**Oil Change International**

Justin Allen, Inclusive Democracy Organizer  
**OLÉ**

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**Party for Socialism and Liberation Albuquerque**

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**Patagonia**

Paula Castillo, Artist  
**Paula Castillo Sculpture Sculpture**

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**Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light**

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**Physicians for Social Responsibility New  
Mexico**

Tonyehn Verkitus, Executive Director  
**Physicians for Social Responsibility  
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Scott Sutton, Artist, Educator  
**Pigment Hunter New Mexico**

Wendy Volkmann, Co-Director  
**PNM Shareholders for a Responsible Future**

Cece Meadows, CEO  
**Prados Beauty Las Cruces**

Will Thomson, Event Coordinator  
**Prickly Pear Cactus Festival**

Annie Baker, Digital Director  
**Progressives for Climate**

Paul Stokes, Co-state Coordinator  
**Progressive Democrats of America  
Central New Mexico Chapter**

Lucas Herndon, Energy Policy Director  
**ProgressNow New Mexico**



Russell Chisholm, Managing Director  
**Protect Our Water, Heritage, Rights**

Matthew Marquez, Member  
**Protect Rio Communities**

Julia Bernal, Director  
**Pueblo Action Alliance**

B.R. Lemonik, Lead  
**Purnam Progressives**

Ruth Breech, Senior Campaigner  
**Rainforest Action Network**

Cheryl Barnds & Marie Venner, Co-Chairs,  
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**Rapid Shift Network**

Austin Rose, Small Business Owner  
**Regeneration Ranch**

Michael Kellett, Executive Director  
**RESTORE: The North Woods**

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**Resource Renewal Institute**

Juliana Ciano, Program Director  
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**Rick Fausto Art**

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**Rio Arriba Concerned Citizens**

Daniel Timmons, Rio Grande Waterkeeper  
**Rio Grande Waterkeeper**

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**Rise Up West Virginia**

Marissa Sieck, Small Business Owner  
**River Rinehart Hide Tanning**

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

Mike Eisenfeld, Energy and Climate Program  
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**San Juan Citizens Alliance**

Christine Canaly, Director  
**San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council**

Jeff Hart, Co-Founder  
**Save EPA (former employees)**

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

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

Sarah Durham, Coordinator  
**Scientist Rebellion, Turtle Island**

Debaura James, Representative  
**SEED of SW NM**

Janet MacGillivray, Executive Director  
**Seeding Sovereignty**

Rabbi Eliot J Baskin, D Min, Rabbi  
**Shalom Park**

Miya King-Flaherty, Organizing Representative  
**Sierra Club Rio Grande Chapter**

Patricia Allaire, Farmer  
**Simple Revolution Farm**

Janene Yazzie, Founder  
**Sixth World Solutions**

Marie Venner, Chair, Staff  
**Small Business Alliance**

Martha Camacho Rodriguez, Director  
**Social Ecological Education LA (SEE)**

Dawn Dewey, Co-Owner  
**Soilutions**

Ian Colburn, Owner Operator  
**Solarpunk Farm**

Arif Ullah, Executive Director  
**South Bronx Unite**

Samia Assed, Chair  
**Southwest Coalition for Palestine**

Terry Sloan, Director  
**Southwest Native Cultures**

Anna Ramirez, Staff  
**Southwest Organization for Sustainability**

Alejandría Lyons, Environmental Justice  
Organizer  
**SouthWest Organizing Project**

Shannon Francis, Executive Director  
**Spirit of the Sun, Inc.**

Fallon Bader, Small Business Owner  
**The Sprouting Kitchen**

Amy Gray, Senior Climate Finance Strategist  
**Stand.earth**

Suzannah Glidden, Co-Founder  
**Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion (SAPE)**

Sommer Mitchell, Communications Coordinator  
**Success Partnership**

Kat Heatherington, Farmer  
**Sunflower River Farm**

Miguel Escoto, Organizer  
**Sunrise El Paso**

Shiva Rajbhandari, Director  
**Sunrise Movement**

Kathie Jones, Organizer  
**Sustainable Medina County**

Maura Stephens, Coordinating Committee  
Member  
**System Change Not Climate Change**

Nicholas Dillon, **Teacher**  
Albuquerque Public Schools

M. Moquino, **Teacher**

Giselle Piburn, **Teacher**

Timothy Edward Duda, Interim Director  
**Terra Advocati**

C. David Day, Small Business Owner  
**Terra Designs LLC**

Corrine Sanchez, Executive Director  
**Tewa Women United**

Robin Schneider, Executive Director  
**Texas Campaign for the Environment**

Christina M. Castro, Co-Founder  
**Three Sisters Collective**

Christopher Ramirez, Executive Director  
**Together for Brothers (T4B)**

Corva Rose, Small Business Owner  
**Tree School New Mexico**

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

Quannah Parker Brightman, Executive Director  
**United Native Americans**

Fran Aguirre, President  
**Unite North Metro Denver**

Terry Lowman, Representative  
**Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic  
Community**

Kineo Memmer, Director of Communication and  
Outreach  
**UNM Leaders for Environmental Action and  
Foresight (LEAF)**

Vicki Eckerdt, Veterinary Technician  
**Vicki's Dog Grooming** est.1978 Lincoln County,  
NM

Jean Ross, Board President  
**Vote Climate**

Paddy McClelland, Co-Founder  
**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**

**CC: Department of the Interior Secretary Debra Haaland, Bureau of Land Management Director Tracy Stone-Manning and Deputy Director Nada Wolff Culver, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Lands and Mineral Management Laura Daniels Davis Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, Senator Martin Heinrich, Senator Ben Ray Lujan, Representative Teresa Leger Fenadez, Representative Melanie Stansbury, Representative Gabe Vasquez, Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards**