

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
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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
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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**

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Ash With Earth

Nodia Brent, Owner Operator
Back in the Temple

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

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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
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Anson Wright, Coordinator
Chaco Alliance

A Martin, Director
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Deb Katz, Executive Director
Citizens Awareness Network

Kaley Shoup, Community Organizer
Citizens Caring for the Future

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Sharon Fisher, President
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Climate First: Replacing Oil & Gas (CFROG)

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Don't Waste Arizona

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Susanne Brown, Writer
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Paula Castillo Sculpture Sculpture

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Rick Fausto Art

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

Jeff White, Founder
Save Our Blue World

Dawne Dunton, Founder
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United Graduate Workers of UNM

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Vicki's Dog Grooming est.1978 Lincoln County,
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Vote Climate

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Wall of Women

Mark Leclaire, Member

We Are One River

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WildEarth Guardians

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Wildlife Conservation Advocacy Southwest

Kristen Woods, Co Executive Director

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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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