

Center for Biological Diversity • YUCCA • Tó Nizhóní Ání • Physicians for Social Responsibility • Pueblo Action Alliance • Indigenous Lifeways • Torreon Community Alliance • WildEarth Guardians • Oilfield Witness • Food and Water Watch • New Energy Economy • New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light • Interfaith Worker Justice – New Mexico • New Mexico Social Justice Equity Institute • Friends of the Earth U.S. • Los Jardines Institute • New Mexico Climate Justice • Santa Fe Forest Coalition • Wild Watershed • Common Ground Rising • Renewable Taos • Oil Change International

June 17, 2026

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham  
490 Old Santa Fe Trail, Room 400  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Sent via online form submission:

<https://www.governor.state.nm.us/contact-the-governor/>

Dear Governor Lujan Grisham,

We write to respectfully request that you declare of a fossil fuel emergency under New Mexico's All Hazard Emergency Management Act, NMSA § 12-10-1 to 12-10-10 (2025).

During your time in office, you have presided over an explosion in fossil fuel extraction. Today, New Mexico is the country's second-largest oil- and third-largest gas-producing state, with the U.S. remaining the world's largest oil and gas producing country of all time. This extraction boom has delivered windfall profits to a handful of oil and gas corporations, while leaving New Mexicans to pay the price—from pollution to health risks and escalating climate damage—even as many still struggle to afford basic necessities of food, housing and healthcare. Meanwhile, the state budget has grown dangerously dependent on volatile fossil fuel revenues and New Mexicans are on the hook for billions of dollars in clean-up costs.

Under New Mexican law, the governor may declare a state-wide emergency “in the event of any man-made or natural disaster causing or threatening widespread physical or economic harm that is beyond local control and requiring the resources of the state.” NMSA § 12-10-4(A) (2025).

The pervasive health, environmental and economic damage wrought by massive fossil fuel extraction and pollution is just that: a man-made disaster that causes and threatens physical and economic harm and demands state intervention.

Five key facts support the case for declaring a fossil fuel emergency:

**1. Fossil Fuel Extraction Worsens the Climate Crisis**

New Mexico's Permian Basin is the world's largest global carbon bomb — containing more climate-pollution potential than anywhere else on Earth — and the state is detonating it. To limit climate catastrophe, fossil fuel extraction everywhere must decline immediately. Instead, New Mexico's leaders are doubling down, expanding drilling and promoting false solutions like “clean oil and gas”, and carbon capture and sequestration — all to prolong the state's fossil fuel boom.

## **2. Fossil Fuel Extraction Threatens New Mexico's Land, Air and Scarce Water Resources**

Across New Mexico, 70,000 extraction sites are driving record-high methane emissions and rampant air pollution. The state's land and precious fresh water have been contaminated by oil and fracking chemicals, waste spills and the underground injection of toxic fluids. At the same time, the fossil fuel industry's intensive water use, combined with worsening aridification from the fossil fuel-driven climate crisis, is placing even greater strain on the state's already scarce water supplies.

## **3. Fossil Fuel Extraction Harms New Mexicans' Health**

People who live near fossil fuel extraction sites are forced to breathe toxic air pollution, increasing the risk of serious illness and premature death. Meanwhile, the fossil fuel-driven climate crisis further harms the health of all New Mexicans by increasing the frequency and severity of extreme heat, droughts and wildfires.

## **4. Fossil Fuel Extraction Leaves New Mexicans Vulnerable to Global Market Turmoil**

Despite a massive surge in fossil fuel production and pollution in New Mexico, oil and gas prices continue to be shaped by the global market. This leaves New Mexicans at the mercy of volatile boom and bust cycles. As state lawmakers have transformed New Mexico into a petrostate, public revenue suffers when fossil fuel prices fall. And as the recent conflict with Iran demonstrates, New Mexican consumers suffer when fossil fuel prices—particularly gasoline—skyrocket.

## **5. Fossil Fuel Extraction Carries Steep Economic Costs**

Even as industry profits balloon, extraction has failed to deliver economic prosperity to New Mexicans. Instead, it has left the people of New Mexico on the hook for billions of dollars in clean-up costs and inflicted serious economic harm, damaging property and threatening livelihoods in industries like tourism and agriculture.

As Governor, you have the legal power and a clear duty to declare a fossil fuel emergency. Making this declaration will best empower you to shepherd the state's resources to respond to the crisis at hand. By taking necessary and decisive action, you can protect New Mexican's health and environment from fossil fuel pollution, hold polluters accountable, and build a renewable, equitable future for all New Mexicans.

The attached report, prepared by the Center for Biological Diversity, further details the case for declaring a fossil fuel emergency, as well as the steps that may be taken to alleviate current harms to human health, the environment, and the economy. Thank you for your time and attention on this critical matter.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Gail Evans & Sarah Baer*

Gail Evans

New Mexico Climate Director &

Sarah Baer

Legal Fellow

Center for Biological Diversity

/s/ Adrastos Da Silva

Adrastos Da Silva

Director

Youth United for Climate Crisis Action (YUCCA)

/s/ Nicole Horseherder

Nicole Horseherder

Co-Founder & Executive Director

Tó Nizhóní Ání

/s/ Brian Campbell

Brian Campbell

Executive Director

Physicians for Social Responsibility

/s/ Julia Bernal

Julia Bernal

Executive Director

Pueblo Action Alliance

/s/ Krystal Curley

Krystal Curley

Executive Director

Indigenous Lifeways

/s/ Mario Atencio

Mario Atencio

Executive Director

Torreon Community Alliance

/s/ Rebecca Sobel

Rebecca Sobel

Climate & Health Program Director

Wild Earth Guardians

/s/ Sharon Wilson & Charlie Barrett

Sharon Wilson

Director &

Charlie Barrett

Thermographer/Field Ecologist

Oilfield Witness

/s/ Erin Doran

Erin Doran

Senior Staff Attorney

Food and Water Watch

/s/ Allie Rosenbluth  
Allie Rosenbluth  
U.S. Campaign Manager  
Oil Change International

/s/ Mariel Nanasi  
Mariel Nanasi  
Executive Director  
New Energy Economy

/s/ Desiree Bernard  
Desiree Bernard  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light

/s/ Holly Beaumont  
Holly Beaumont  
Director  
Interfaith Worker Justice – New Mexico

/s/ Anna Rondon  
Anna Rondon  
Project Director  
New Mexico Social Justice Equity Institute

/s/ Raena Garcia  
Raena Garcia  
Senior Energy Campaigner  
Friends of the Earth U.S.

/s/ Sophia Martinez  
Sophia Martinez  
Co-Coordinator  
Los Jardines Institute

/s/ Anni Hanna  
Anni Hanna  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Climate Justice

/s/ Sam Hitt  
Sam Hitt  
President  
Sante Fe Forest Coalition/  
Co-Founder & Executive Director  
Wild Watershed

/s/ Elaine Cimino

Elaine Cimino

Co-Director

Common Ground Rising

/s/ Jay Levine

Jay Levine

Executive Board Member

Renewable Taos

cc via email:

Daniel Schlegel, Chief of Staff to Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham

James Kenney, Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department

Stephanie Garcia Richard, Commissioner, New Mexico State Land Office

Erin Taylor, Acting Secretary, New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Gina DeBlassie, Secretary, New Mexico Department of Health

Javier Martinez, Speaker of the House

Mimi Stewart, President Pro Tempore

Deborah Haaland, Candidate for Governor

Gregg Hull, Candidate for Governor