



State of New Mexico  
**House of Representatives**

STATE CAPITOL

Santa Fe

April 23, 2026

Ms. Dorothy Mendonca  
Director  
State Purchasing Division  
New Mexico General Services Department  
Post Office Box 6850  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Dear Director Mendonca:

We are writing to request the State Purchasing Division conduct thorough reviews, and consider possible denials, of the various sole source contracts being requested by numerous state government departments and other governmental entities. These sole source contracts are a convenient method for governmental institutions to avoid adhering to the inherent safeguards within the statutory procurement process which are designed to ensure taxpayer dollars are spent in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible.

With the end of the current fiscal year rapidly approaching and the current Administration only having seven months remaining in office, these factors create an environment for program managers and other procurement contracting officials to greatly expand sole source contracts. In turn, the ongoing explosion of these sole source contracts permit state contracting entities, in many cases, to spend money in an expediated manner in order to financially assist favored service providers without much regard as to how taxpayer dollars are being utilized. As members of the House Appropriations and Finance Committee, we believe there is no excuse to "waive" the normal procurement process simply because contracting authorities do not want to take the time to fulfill the process' requirements.

During the past several weeks, we have noticed several examples of sole source contract requests which need to be reviewed to determine if the statutory conditions for a sole source contract are being met, including: there only being one source for the purchase, the contract is unique, and other similar services could not meet the purpose of the contract. Those concerning examples include: a \$350,000 request by the Department of Justice to hire a Washington, D.C. consulting firm to perform public relations services; a \$108,000 request by the Children, Youth, and Families Department to hire a New York City firm to deliver AI-driven simulations for child welfare practice skill development; and a \$800,000 request by the Department of Public Safety to hire a Madrid, Spain consultancy firm for executive security services tied to the governor's official duties.

In addition, we have reviewed the Division's web site for sole source contracts awaiting approval, and as of today, we found there are 46 pending requests totaling more than \$49.1 million. While we assume there are numerous requests which likely meet the statutory conditions mentioned earlier, these significant numbers should indicate a comprehensive staff review is needed to see if the remainder of these sole source contract requests are truly necessary.

It is our understanding the Division can deny sole source contracts if they lack form or legal sufficiency. Therefore, we encourage the Division to utilize this denial authority more aggressively to ensure as many state contracting actions as possible are following the statutory procurement process.

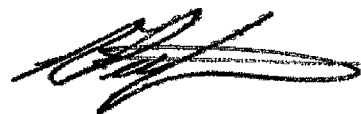
New Mexico's taxpayers deserve to know if their tax dollars are being used properly, and making certain the sole source exception to the statutory procurement process is not being abused is one way to reassure taxpayers their money is being spent appropriately.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to your response and we would be pleased to assist the Division in any way possible to address these concerns.

Sincerely yours,



Rebecca Dow  
House Republican Caucus Chair  
District 38



Randall T. Pettigrew  
State Representative  
District 61