



State of New Mexico
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Santa Fe

May 1, 2024

Jenifer M. Jones

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COMMITTEES:

Health & Human Services
Transportation, Public Works & Capital Improvements
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The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor, State of New Mexico
State Capitol, Room 400
490 Old Santa Fe Trail
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Governor:

This week, House Republican Caucus members visited the border near Santa Teresa with representatives from the Western States Sheriffs' Association. This visit allowed House Republicans to see firsthand the destruction caused by both state and federal inaction to secure the border and reinforced the need to protect the people of New Mexico. It also highlighted the necessity of including, in the upcoming special session, specific measures that are designed to reduce the impact this illegal activity is having in our communities.

I am writing, along with members of the House Republican Caucus, to again encourage your administration to use all available state resources to address the breakdown and ongoing crisis along our southern border. Specifically, my letter dated April 19, 2023, asked that your office consider using the New Mexico National Guard and the Air National Guard to assist our United States Border Patrol officers in stopping the flow of fentanyl, human trafficking, and other illegal activity along the New Mexico-Mexico border. This April 2023 letter was written because I represent 155 miles of our southern border and the ongoing border crisis is a top priority for my constituents.

Any reasonable observer could surmise that with over 8 million illegal entrants into our country over the last 3 years, our federal government is derelict in its duty to protect the people of this nation and the sovereignty of our country. Admittedly, it is the federal government's responsibility to manage and secure our nation's borders. However, the governor and the state legislature are responsible for protecting the people of this state. Over the last several years the Biden Administration has clearly failed in this basic duty to secure the border, thus, causing several states to act on their own to stem the tide of this ongoing illegal activity.

It is time New Mexico uses every resource at our disposal, including enhanced technology and communication strategies, to protect the people of New Mexico. Unfortunately, your office has not only failed to respond to last year's request, but the lack of action by your administration to help address the chaos at the border will lead to the continuation of the current environment that has contributed to our state's unacceptable violent crime problem and the growing problem of fentanyl addiction and

overdoses. When coupled with our lack of affordable housing, depressed salaries, and the overcrowding in our hospitals, the cost of our state doing nothing is simply too great for our citizens to bear and is an indictment on those of us who were elected to protect and serve our state.

It should also be noted New Mexico has the 6th highest rate of fentanyl deaths in the country. The most recent data available indicates that over 1,000 of our New Mexico neighbors died in 2021 from this addictive drug. It is only safe to assume this number of deaths has increased substantially over the last two years as the disaster at our southern border has only gotten worse. Additionally, state inaction is failing to stop the human rights abuses taking place along the border and along the paths many migrants take because of our lax illegal immigration policies and lack of border enforcement.

Therefore, my colleagues and I are requesting again that your office use every resource available, including placing the New Mexico National Guard and Air National Guard along our southern border, to help stop the flow of drugs, criminals, and human traffickers into our state. Equally important, it is imperative that state solutions to this border crisis be included on the agenda during the special session in July. Both National Guard presence and legislative action in the upcoming special session will signal to our federal partners that the State of New Mexico is ready to assist in defending our borders. More importantly, it will signal to the people of our state that we will not allow the breakdown at the border to continue without New Mexico doing everything it can to protect the people who live here.

Thank you for your consideration of this very serious request.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Jones
State Representative District 32



Rod Montoya
Republican Leader District 1



Alan T. Martinez
Republican Whip District 23



Gail Armstrong
Republican Caucus Chair District 49



Martin R. Zamora
State Representative District 63



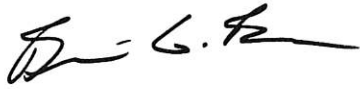
Mark Duncan
State Representative District 2



John Block
State Representative District 51



Harlan Vincent
State Representative District 56



Brain G. Baca
State Representative District 8



Candy Spence Ezzell
State Representative District 58



William A. Hall II
State Representative District 3



Jared A. Hembree
State Representative District 59



Jimmy G. Mason
State Representative District 66



Jason C. Harper
State Representative District 57



Larry R. Scott
State Representative District 62



Andrea Reeb
State Representative District 64



Tanya Mirabal Moya
State Representative District 7



Cathrynn R. Brown
State Representative District 55



Luis M. Terrazas
State Representative District 39



Jack Chatfield
State Representative District 67



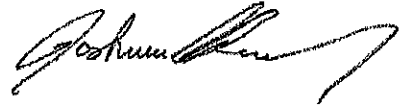
James G. Townsend
State Representative District 54



Stefani Lord
State Representative District 22

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William R. Rehm
State Representative District 31

Handwritten signature of Joshua N. Hernandez in cursive script.

Joshua N. Hernandez
State Representative District 60