



New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light

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Dear New Mexico Department of Environment (NMED) and Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources (EMNRD):

We, the undersigned interfaith leaders live and serve throughout New Mexico. We recognize our responsibility to care for our Common Home and our communities. Our traditions have documents and statements calling for ethical and moral actions to address climate change, to protect Our Common Home, to care for the common good and to protect the health, welfare and human rights of our communities. **We affirm the stakeholder process to develop New Mexico's first methane reduction regulations as part of Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's executive order on climate change.**

Strong regulations are one step to address methane pollution and waste that costs millions of dollars in revenue loss to our schools, harm to health, and escalation of climate change. Methane is responsible for about twenty-five percent of the climate warming we experience. In New Mexico, oil and gas operations release more than 1 million metric tons of methane every year with a short term impact equivalent to approximately 22 coal-fired power plants or 28 million automobiles.

There are many implications of climate change: from floods, to droughts, to life threatening heat waves, all of which affect certain parts of our state more than others. For example, extreme heat poses severe health risks. This threat is acute for those without access to electricity, including 40 percent of residents in Navajo Nation.

Oil and gas operations release ozone-forming pollutants that worsen respiratory diseases such as emphysema and trigger asthma attacks adding costs in lost school and work days and increased emergency room visits. Those living closest to oilfield development are exposed to cancer-causing chemicals such as benzene and toluene. The current waste practices of many oil and gas companies costs New Mexico over \$40 million in lost royalty and tax revenue that could fund public education.

Human and economic factors must be weighed when making public policy. This "integral ecology" view put forth by Pope Francis and many others holds that social, economic and spiritual concerns are of equal importance and interrelated. An "integral ecology" is one held by various faith traditions. It takes the form the Golden Rule in the Judeo-Christian tradition: "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18). In the Buddhist tradition, love and compassion are extended equally toward all living beings without bias or restriction. The Muslim tradition teaches "love for your brother what you love for yourself". We understand that our neighbor includes all humans, plants, elements, creatures and future generations because all are part of the sacred intertwining of life in Our Common Home.

Strong methane regulations would honor the deep spiritual traditions and worldview of our Native brothers and sisters as well as the ethical and moral call to act responsibly of people of faith in our state. Each day we face the challenge of ministering in a state with poverty, polluted air and water, and thousands of refugees (many displaced because they can no longer grow food in a warming climate). Increasingly, people of faith answer the call to care for neighbors, but also know we must address root causes of the challenges we face. Responsible and strong methane regulations are a positive step in caring for Our Common Home.

In peace and good, Interfaith Leaders in New Mexico

Most Reverent Archbishop John C. Wester, Archdiocese of Santa Fe New Mexico
Bishop David Bailey - Episcopal Church Navajoland
The Right Reverend Michael B Hunn, Bishop The Diocese of the Rio Grande
The Rev. Canon Raymond Raney, Canon to the Ordinary, Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande
Sr. Joan Brown, osf, Executive Director, New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light
Sr. Rose Marie Cecchini, MM, Dir., Office Life, Peace, Justice & Creation, Catholic Charities, Gallup
Ellen Lipsey, United Methodist Women Climate Justice Jurisdiction Guide, Texas
Rev. John Kees, Retired Methodist Minister, Shiprock, AZ
Cheryl Felder, President, United Methodist Women, New Mexico Conference, Albuquerque
Darryl Junes-Joe, National Director, United Methodist Women
Fr. Richard Rohr, ofm, Franciscan, Center for Action Contemplation, Holy Family Parish, Albuquerque
The Rev. Holly Beaumont, D. Min., Organizing Director, Interfaith Worker Justice - NM
Nicholas King, pastor, Carlsbad Mennonite Church, Carlsbad
Rev. Stephanie Harmon, United Methodist clergy, Carlsbad
Rev. Martha A Singeltery, united Methodist Clergy Retired, Carlsbad
Rev. Beverly A. Tase, Vicar St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, Hobbs
Rev. Dave Rogers, Pastor, First Christian Disciples Church, Carlsbad
Rabbi Min Kantrowitz, Congregation Nahalat Shalom, Albuquerque
Reverend Andrew Black, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church Santa Fe, Santa Fe
Rev. Susan Allison-Hatch, St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, Affiliated Clergy
Maria Isabel Galbe, Relig.of the Assumption. Chaparral
Fr. Tom Smith OFM Conv., Director Holy Cross Retreat Center, Mesilla Park
Rev. Anne Morawski, ELCA Global Mission, Albuquerque
Rev. Pamela Shepherd, Taos United Community Church, Taos
Abbot Joel Garner, O.Praem. Santa Maria de la Vid Abbey, Albuquerque
Mary Ellen Gonzales, President, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Fe
Rev. Dr. Stephen J. Miller, Disciples of Christ, Albuquerque
Judy Traeger, JustFaith Facilitator, St. John XXIII Catholic Community, Albuquerque
Idolia Hawkins, New Mexico Conference United Methodist Women, Chair, Green Team
Rev. Liz McMaster, St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Albuquerque
Rev. Jean Siegfried Darling (Unitarian Universalist), Coor., UU Santa Fe Environmental Justice, Santa Fe
Rev. Judith Marshall, Unity Spiritual Center Albuquerque
Rev. Talitha Arnold, Senior Minister, United Church of Santa Fe, UCC, Santa Fe
Rev. Anita Amstutz, Mountain States Mennonite Conference, Albuquerque
Fr Warren J Broussard, S.J. Immaculate Conception Church, Albuquerque
Sr. Marlene Perrotte, rsm, Sisters of Mercy, Albuquerque
Mike Sells, Vicar., All Saints Episcopal Chapel, Farmington
Rabbi Harry Rosenfeld, Congregation Albert, Albuquerque
Rev. Tiffany Curtis, Minister, First Christian Church of Santa Fe, Santa Fe
Cantor Barbara R. Finn, R. J. E., Congregation Albert, Albuquerque
Rev. Dr. Dave Wasserman, Honorably Retired, Presbyterian Church (USA)
Rev. Dr. G. F. Schott (ELCA), Santa Fe
Swami Omkara, Director, Trinity House, Catholic Worker, Albuquerque
Sr. Elizabeth Racko, Catholic Sister, Gallup
Rev. Erica Lea-Simka, Pastor, Albuquerque Mennonite Church

The Rev. Angela Herrera, Senior Minister, First Unitarian Church, Albuquerque
Charlotte Smith, faith leader, Bahai, Albuquerque
Alexander Lenzo+, Rector, St. Francis Episcopal Church, Rio Rancho
The Rev. Carolyn W. Metzler, Spiritual Director and priest, Albuquerque
Very Rev. Kristin C. Kopren, Rector, Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross, Edgewood
Barbara Gabioud, board chair, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Silver City
Deacon Andy Dimas, St. Anne Catholic Church, Santa Fe
Kathleen Duncan, President, United Methodist Women, Albuquerque District
Rev. Greg Kennedy, Senior Pastor, Central United Methodist Church, Albuquerque
Rev. Jim Hawk, retired Methodist Minister, Albuquerque
Rev. Bert Scott, retired Methodist Minister, Albuquerque
Rabbi Nahum Ward-Lev, Santa Fe
Rev. Janet Norden, COH, Albuquerque UMC and University Heights UMC, Albuquerque
Rev. Joan Jiko Halifax, Abbot, Upaya Zen Center, Santa Fe
Caroline Hess, Lay Leader, Bahá'í Community, Albuquerque
Kathryn Turnipseed, Buddhist teacher and leader, Albuquerque
Rabbi Paul Citrin, Jewish, Albuquerque
Donna Illerbrun, Principal, St. Therese Catholic School, Albuquerque
Ani Jamgyal, Buddhist monastic, Albuquerque
Rev. Larry Wills, retired minister, United States Air Force, Albuquerque
Rev. H. Blaine Wimberly, Pastor Zia Methodist, Santa Fe
Joan Rieck, Teacher, Rice Ave. Zendo, Albuquerque
Kathleen Mezoff, Elder, Westminster Presbyterian Church
Ed Vigil, President, United Methodist Men, Central United Methodist Church, Albuquerque
Rev. Roger Scott Powers, Pastor, St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Albuquerque
The Rev. Deacon Patricia Masterman, Church of the Holy Faith, Santa Fe
Rev. Jeremiah Griffin, Pastor, St. Chad Episcopal Church, Albuquerque
Todd Wynward, Ministry of Watershed Discipleship, Rocky Mountain Mennonites, Taos
Judy Smith, Green Team Leader, Congregation Albert, Albuquerque

