



September 6, 2016

Sandoval County Planning and Zoning Commission:

The oil and gas industry has a long and prosperous history in New Mexico.

Every city, county, and school district within this State has directly benefited from the tax revenue and the royalties paid by the oil and gas industry.

The State of New Mexico, Oil and Conservation Department is the only agency within the State of New Mexico that is properly equipped to regulate the oil and gas industry. This agency has the technical staff and resources to professionally engage this industry—cities and counties lack the resources and the ability to hire the scientific and technical staff. This industry is ever-changing with geological advances that encompass several disciplines such as chemical, environmental, surveying, civil, geological and petroleum engineering and resource planning. Again, the State of New Mexico currently has the high level of expertise to professionally communicate, counsel and review development permits and plans submitted by this industry. Adding an additional layer of regulation by a county, will not only be costly for such county, but will also cause jurisdictional confusion and enforcement redundancy—ultimately costing New Mexico tax payers more money.

Please consider, that the oil and gas industry has been the driver in economic growth and financial resources within the State of New Mexico. Creating local government regulation of this industry will have negative economic growth consequences for the State of New Mexico as the industry will retract their investments in New Mexico as a result of local ordinances similar to the one your County is considering. As the oil and gas industry reduces their presence in New Mexico high paying jobs will be gone, and the decline tax base for our state will be ever greater.

Across the country counties have joined America's Counties for Energy Independence (ACEI), to learn helpful information as it relates to local best practices of interacting with the oil and gas industry. Members of our organization has traveled across the county to assist counties like yours, and our members are willing to assist Sandoval County. Learn more about ACEI at www.americascountries.org

Sincerely,

Doug McLinko

Chairman, America's Counties for Energy Independence

Bradford, Pennsylvania County Commissioner