

From: [Elaine Cimino](#)
To: [Jones, Pamela, ENV](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter to the WQCC and Chair RE Aug 12 Hearing on WATR Petition
Date: Friday, August 8, 2025 6:43:48 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Elaine Cimino

Director, Common Ground Rising
Ecimino10 at [gmail.com](mailto:Ecimino10@gmail.com)
505 604-9772

To:

Chairperson Bruce Thomson
Water Quality Control Commission
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469 **Date:** August 9, 2025

Re: Opposition to WATR Petition – Protect the 2024 Rule and the Integrity of the Commission

Dear Chairperson Thomson,

I am writing to you as the Director of Common Ground Rising and as someone who has spent over three decades working to protect the air, water, and land that sustain life in New Mexico. Over those years, I have written countless letters to this Commission and other governing bodies, and I must tell you—this one comes with an even heavier sense of urgency.

The WATR Alliance petition is not an honest attempt to “protect New Mexico’s water future.” It is an orchestrated campaign by the fossil fuel industry, leveraging disinformation and public manipulation, to overturn a science-based, public-health-centered rule your Commission adopted after 18 months of hearings, expert testimony, and robust public participation. Their Change.org petition omits the most basic truth: that the “billions of gallons of water” they cite are in fact toxic fracking waste.

We must speak plainly. This is not just about one rule—it is about the corrosion of democratic governance through the **stacking and packing of regulatory boards** to favor industry. When decision-making bodies are engineered to deliver preordained outcomes, it destroys public trust, undermines transparency, and poisons the very processes meant to protect us.

Haven’t we had enough? Enough pollution, enough public health impacts, enough strain on a healthcare system already on the verge of collapse. Every spill, every emission, every

discharge compounds the crisis—whether it's respiratory illness from air pollution, cancer clusters from contaminated water, or the silent devastation of our soils.

What the fossil fuel lobbyists are doing here is showing New Mexicans, in no uncertain terms, that theirs is a **cult of death and destruction**—where profit comes first, and those who object are simply collateral damage. That is tyranny in its purest form: the deliberate sacrifice of public health and environmental integrity for private gain.

We in New Mexico cannot allow this to move forward. Not for profit. Not for political expedience. Not for any rationale that places industry desires above the sanctity of life itself.

For the sake of our health, safety, and future generations, I urge you to reject the WATR petition outright. Stand by the 2024 rule. Defend the integrity of your Commission, and send a clear message that New Mexico will not be governed by disinformation, manipulation, or industry capture.

Sincerely,

Elaine Cimino

Director, Common Ground Rising
907 Nyassa Rd SE Rio Rancho NM 87124

--

"Nothing is more perishable than our relationship with the Earth."

"In a time where every living system is declining and the rate of decline is accelerating, we must figure out what it means to be a human on Earth and remain humane in the process."-Elaine Cimino

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

-Martin Luther King Jr.