From:	Methanestrategy, NM, NMENV
To:	Spillers, Robert, NMENV
Subject:	Fw: Comments to Methane Rules
Date:	Thursday, September 17, 2020 9:28:56 AM
Attachments:	Comments to Methane Rules.pdf

From: Montoya, Lorraine <Lorraine.Montoya@nmlegis.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 12:02 PM
To: Kenney, James, NMENV; Methanestrategy, NM, NMENV
Subject: [EXT] Comments to Methane Rules

Good morning,
Sen. Wirth asked me to forward the attached letter regarding the proposed Methane Rules. Please let me know if you have any questions or are unable to open the attached letter.
Best,
Lorraine Montoya-Vigil
Senate Majority Office
State Capitol, Room 119
Santa Fe, NM 87501
(505)0986-4723

New Mexico State Senate

State Capitol
Santa Fe

COMMITTEES:

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· Judiciary

SENATOR PETER WIRTH
MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER
D-Santa Fe-25

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Office: (505) 986-4727
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September 16, 2020

Secretary James Kenney
New Mexico Department of Environment
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Via Email: james.kenney@state.nm.us

Dear Secretary Kenney:

This letter is in response to the Environment Department's proposed methane rules recently released for public comment. I congratulate the administration's proactive approach to combating the terribly destructive impact climate change has had on our planet and our lives. Witnessing the recent fires, hurricanes and flooding in our country, and the rollbacks of environmental protections by the federal government, it is critical that New Mexico take steps now to minimize the damage already done and to help prevent future catastrophes.

As the former chair and current member of the Senate Conservation Committee and Water and Natural Resources Committee, I understand the importance of having strong regulatory oversight of environmental hazards. That is why I am concerned by the exemptions in the Department's proposed rules and express my support for their removal. As they are currently drafted, stripper wells and facilities that annually emit less than 15 tons of methane emissions would be exempt from regulation by the Department. The proposed rules will be less effective in removing much of the toxic pollution caused by methane emissions if the exemptions are adopted.

Eliminating the exemptions from the Department's rules will also allow New Mexico to increase its tax and royalty revenue by an estimated $40 million per year. This revenue could be used to bolster the state's finances and provide additional resources to fund education and other critical needs of the state.

It is in New Mexico's best interests that the exemptions be eliminated from the proposed rules. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Peter Wirth
Senate Majority Leader