From:	Jeff Thrope
To:	Kenney, James, NMENV; sarah.cottrell@state.nm.us
Cc:	Sandoval, Adrienne, EMNRD; Ely, Sandra, NMENV; nm.ojai@state.nm.us; WasteRule, EMNRD, EMNRD
Subject:	[EXT] Outdoor Recreation Business Letter Urges Improvements to Methane Rule Making Process
Date:	Wednesday, September 16, 2020 1:49:35 PM
Attachments:	Methane Letter New Mexico 091620.pdf

To the Honorable James C. Kenney and Sarah Cottrell Probst,

Please find the attached letter from the outdoor business community expressing support for the methane rule making process and urging improvements specifically regarding methane waste and ozone air pollution problems.

Thank you,

Jeff Thrope
Public Land Solutions
847-721-2408

September 16th, 2020

James C. Kenney
Cabinet Secretary
New Mexico Environment Dept.
1190 St. Francis Drive, Suite N4050
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Sarah Cottrell Propst
Cabinet Secretary
Energy, Mineral & Natural Resources Dept.
1220 South St. Francis Dr.
Santa Fe, NM 87505

The undersigned outdoor businesses applaud Governor Lujan Grisham's commitment to adopting nationally leading oil and gas rules to cut methane and air pollution. While we appreciate the hard work that the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and the Energy, Mineral and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) have done to date to develop such rules, we urge these agencies to make critical changes necessary to protect the health of New Mexicans and grow the state's outdoor recreation industry.

New Mexico has a methane waste and oil and gas air pollution problem, and it's causing harm to the state's unique outdoor recreation brand by ruining our air and harming our climate. Methane is a powerful climate change pollutant responsible for 25 percent of the warming we experience today, and New Mexico is a primary source of our nation's methane pollution. While we work to promote our unique cultural heritage along with our hiking, biking, fishing, skiing, and rafting along with many other outstanding outdoor activities, New Mexico is increasingly known as the nation's leading methane hotspot.

While the NMED and EMNRD proposals begin to address these important methane waste and ozone air pollution problems, they do not go far enough to meet the Governor's goal of establishing nationally leading rules. For instance, large loopholes in the NMED proposal mean it will leave oil and gas air pollution from thousands of wells unchecked. The agency should remove these loopholes. And while the Oil Conservation Division (OCD) of EMNRD has developed a reasonable approach for a methane waste rule, important changes are still needed to limit venting and flaring and require enforcement of gas capture plans.

To keep our air clean and protect the outdoor recreation businesses that are core to the New Mexican economy, we need strong rules to reduce air and climate pollution. We urge NMED and OCD to improve their methane and air quality proposals to meet the Governor's goals and protect our businesses. As we all dig out of the current economic crisis, it's more important now than ever to maintain New Mexico's iconic outdoor brand and continue to grow clean jobs in our outdoor recreation industry.

CC: Adrienne Sandoval, OCD
Sandra Ely, NMED

Sincerely,

Jay Carroll
El Rey Court
Santa Fe, NM

Nick Streit
The Reel Life
Taos, NM

Nick Streit
Taos Fly Shop
Taos, NM

Martyn Pearson
Gila Hike and Bike
Silver City, NM

John Watson
The Radavist
Santa Fe, NM

Michael Bower
Taos Ski Valley
El Prado, NM

Van Beachman
Solitary Angler
Taos, NM

Jeff Thrope
Cold Splinters
Abiquiu, NM

Bryan Pletta
Stone Age Climbing Gym
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Britt Runyon Huggins
New Wave Rafting LLC
Embudo, NM

Kyle Hawari
Taos Mountain Energy Foods, LLC
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