

**From:** [Langenegger, Jared, EMNRD](#)  
**To:** [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] FWD: Theresa Johnson- EMNRD #3142388  
**Date:** Monday, March 18, 2024 10:48:46 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

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Jared Langenegger, Field Operations Bureau Chief  
NM State Parks Division

Cell: 575-420-1733

“Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing” - Theodore Roosevelt



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**From:** Pedro, Lois, EMNRD <LoisC.Pedro@emnrd.nm.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 10:47 AM  
**To:** Velasquez, Toby, EMNRD <toby.velasquez@emnrd.nm.gov>  
**Cc:** Langenegger, Jared, EMNRD <JaredR.Langenegger@emnrd.nm.gov>; constituentservices, GOV <constituentservices@exec.nm.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] FWD: Theresa Johnson- EMNRD #3142388

Good morning Director Velásquez,

Enclosed please find correspondence for your review and response.

Thank you.

Lois Caroline Pedro

Lois Caroline Pedro  
Executive Assistant - Constituent Services Liaison  
Office of the Secretary

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department  
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1220 South St. Francis Drive  
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State of New Mexico



Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department

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**From:** Office of the New Mexico Governor <[constituentservices@exec.nm.gov](mailto:constituentservices@exec.nm.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 10:32 AM  
**To:** Pedro, Lois, EMNRD <[LoisC.Pedro@emnrd.nm.gov](mailto:LoisC.Pedro@emnrd.nm.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FWD: Theresa Johnson- EMNRD #3142388

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

Hello,

Please see the information below for your department's review and response and contact the constituent within 2 business days. If your department requires an extension, please let us know why as soon as possible. Upon case conclusion, please reply to this email with detailed and pertinent information about your efforts, subject matter unaltered, for tracking purposes.

The contact information for the constituent is:

Theresa Johnson

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713 Spruce St.

Deming NM 88030-3548

The constituent's issue information is listed below.

**From: Theresa Johnson**

Date: Fri, Mar 15, 2024 at 3:26 pm

Greetings, I am writing with the hope of getting someone's attention to a huge issue that is extremely detrimental to New Mexican residents of modest means. I selected 'Health' as my issue for this message as it seems most fitting, since traveling all over our breathtakingly beautiful state, soaking in nature while recreating in our NMSPs is my lifeline, my medicine, my passion. I am a

New Mexico resident and one of New Mexico State Parks very biggest, most enthusiastic fans. I have purchased a resident Annual Camping Pass (ACP) for our State Parks for many years, first as a disabled resident and now as a senior. As a retired senior citizen now with some limitations, the ACP has been my 'Golden Ticket' to being active, engaged, and healthy in body, mind, and spirit. It has allowed me to be able to afford to camp frequently, throughout the year, at almost every single one of our fantastic parks. I always assumed the New Mexico resident ACP was offered to enable and encourage New Mexican families, seniors, and disabled folks of modest means to get out in nature, exercise, and recreate. Now the NMSPD proposes to effectively banish me and other senior and disabled ACP users, along with all New Mexicans of modest means, from camping in our own State Parks, by eliminating all ACPs while simultaneously drastically increasing all fees. I am heartbroken and very upset. I currently pay \$100 for the ACP, which effectively gives me \$10 a night off of the current camping fees. That means I pay \$4 a night for a \$14 electric site, plus a \$12 reservation fee. If I camp for a week I pay \$40, including the reservation fee. But now, NMSPD proposes that I will have to pay \$40 a NIGHT for this electric site, plus the reservation fee. That is a 900% fee increase! My Social Security COLA increase was 3.2% this year. A weeklong camping trip will go from costing \$40 to costing \$292. That is outrageous and is impossible for me and for all New Mexicans of modest means. Many seniors, disabled folks, and others who require electricity for medical supplies or equipment cannot camp in a non-electric site, which means they cannot even opt for the undeveloped sites. The State Parks Fees Study states that "New Mexico has the 3rd highest poverty rate in the Nation with 16.8% of our citizens living in poverty". It also states "This study... was conducted for the purpose of exploring strategies for providing affordable and equitable access for all visitors to New Mexico's thirty-five State Parks". And yet the Study proceeds to propose that even the poorest of New Mexico residents start paying up to camp in our own State Parks at the same cost as even the wealthiest people from the surrounding states. It proposes NO equity and NO affordability for New Mexicans of modest means to participate in one of the very few opportunities we have to affordably get outside and recreate. Whoever proposed this drastic fees increase forgot New Mexicans in their Fees Study. There is a happy middle between letting everyone camp for very little and banning New Mexicans who have very little. The huge, regressive proposed flat camping fee of \$20-\$50 a night for everyone will have the effect of chasing non-residents to the parks in other states that have, I'm told, more and better amenities for the price, and of forcing New Mexico residents to just plain stay home. Local businesses often depend on the revenue that campers bring to their area. For example, I've spoken to several local businesses in T or C and Elephant Butte about the proposed fee increases, and they are alarmed at the probable very negative impact of off-seasonal campers not showing up anymore to fill the winter gap at the summer hotspots of EB, Percha, and Caballo throughout the lean winter months. I asked one business owner in Elephant Butte if he had heard about the proposed fee increase and he answered in one passionate, disgusted word: "Robbery". I am just one older woman who, armed with my resident ACP, has been able to heal, recharge, feel joy, and grow stronger through traveling New Mexico via our State Parks. It has been the gift of a lifetime, one that I am eternally grateful for, and I am utterly devastated at the thought of losing it. If NMSPD follows through on the massive fees increases proposed, I will be banished, grounded. And I am not the only resident camping enthusiast out here just like me. Sincerely, Theresa Johnson

Would You Like A Response: Yes, please contact me

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Name: Channel

Value: Web  
Prefix: Ms.  
First Name: Theresa  
Last Name: Johnson  
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Trace Id: y48O4CV0sY  
Office: newmexicogovernor  
Form Id: e8157390-ee98-4a62-a4d6-edaeaa9b7628

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Thank you,

Vanessa Kennedy (she/her)  
Director | Constituent Services  
Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham  
505-476-2235 | [vanessa.kennedy@exec.nm.gov](mailto:vanessa.kennedy@exec.nm.gov)  
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