

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 5, 2017

Amy Lueders  
New Mexico State Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
P.O. Box 27115  
Santa Fe, NM 87502-0115

Dear State Director Lueders:

It has come to our attention there is an approximate \$69,900,000.00 payment pending to the state of New Mexico as a result of the \$145.6 million oil and gas lease sale made in Roswell, NM, by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in September 2016. We received the attached letter from the chairs of the finance committees of the New Mexico Legislature, which outlines their concerns about the impact of this delayed payment on the state general fund reserves. We are aware that the delayed payment is pending the completion of the mineral leasing process.

Delayed receipt of these funds could worsen the state's already precarious financial position, adding to the significant uncertainty of New Mexico's current economic forecast. Furthermore, without this or other payments the state is counting on, New Mexico could end the fiscal year with negative reserves, which would violate the state constitution and could trigger extreme action.

We request that the BLM complete the leasing process as expeditiously as possible, and promptly provide payment to the state of New Mexico. We hope you can work through the process before the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2017.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



TOM UDALL  
United States Senator



MARTIN HEINRICH  
United States Senator



BEN RAY LUJÁN  
United States Representative



MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM  
United States Representative