

August 26, 2021

The Honorable Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator  
303 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator  
498 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Re: Support Repeal of Fossil Fuel Subsidies in Budget Reconciliation Bill**

Dear Senator Heinrich and Senator Lujan,

As organizations, leaders, and residents from across New Mexico, we urge you to publicly pledge your support for the elimination of fossil fuel subsidies. As budget and infrastructure talks continue, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to end giveaways to polluting industries that have supercharged the destruction of our communities, lands, and climate. The report published by the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC) states that immediate action on the part of elected officials is our only hope of preventing climate catastrophe.

Here in New Mexico, our communities additionally suffer from the harms of fossil fuels extraction and associated impacts of climate change. Subsidies for fossil fuels make both of these problems worse. As the second-largest oil-producing state in the country, New Mexico must be a leader to prevent the combined harms of climate change. We also acknowledge that the impacts of extraction continually fall hardest on historically marginalized communities, including Black and Indigenous communities in particular. We must stop subsidizing the problem and instead invest in a healthy and sustainable New Mexico.

As our senators, [you have acknowledged that our state needs to move away from our reliance on the fossil fuel industry](#) for state revenue, and that the federal government should support this move. Continuing to subsidize the fossil fuel industry means locking New Mexico into a dependence on unpredictable boom-and-bust cycles while frontline communities continue to suffer from pollution and our precious water resources are depleted and destroyed. We must use federal dollars to move us to a more sustainable and resilient future. We urge you to take action so that these federal dollars are used to support a just transition, and not more fossil-fuel handouts.

President Biden has called for the repeal of \$121 billion in fossil-fuel giveaways in his American Jobs Plan, and it is impossible to meet his climate goals if we continue propping up this industry with public handouts. We ask that you support his leadership by pushing to repeal fossil fuel subsidies. Action now will help us protect our climate while promoting a more equitable and clean economy for New Mexico.

The coming months could be the most important opportunity—perhaps ever—to pass legislation promoting climate justice and confronting fossil fuels. We cannot afford to waste it. Our climate and communities cannot afford another [decade of fossil fuel subsidies](#).

Sincerely,

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