



Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard
New Mexico State Land Office

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**SB 458, Requiring Transparency in Land Deals, to be
Heard Tuesday in Senate Conservation**

Bill backed by Commissioner Garcia Richard would require public notice on land exchanges and sales, proposals for large transmission lines and pipelines

SANTA FE, NM – SB 458, introduced by Senator Daniel Ivey-Soto (D-15), will have its first hearing Tuesday, February 26th in the Senate Conservation Committee at 8:30 a.m. The bill requires public notice and input prior to the land office taking final action on proposed land sales, land exchanges and rights-of-way (ROW) permits for large-scale electrical transmission lines and oil/gas pipelines involving state trust lands.

“This bill is a direct response to concerns that I heard from communities as I travelled New Mexico as a candidate for this office. To date, there has been limited accountability to the public when it comes to what we do with state trust land,” Commissioner Garcia Richard said of SB 458.

The bill requires notice of a proposed land sale, land exchange or certain right-of-way permits to be published on the land office’s website and in a newspaper of general circulation in Santa Fe as well as in the community near the site of the proposed activity. Public meetings are to occur near the location of the proposed activity as well.

“I want to remedy the concerns I heard from citizens. Putting this accountability into law will assure that all future commissioners will be required to do business in the light of day and with input from New Mexicans and impacted communities,” the Commissioner added.

The Senate Conservation Committee meets Tuesday, February 26th at 8:30 a.m. in Capitol room 311.

Oil, gas, and mineral production, ranching and farming, and commercial development on State Trust Lands support public schools, seven universities, New Mexico Military Institute, New Mexico School for the Deaf, New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, three hospitals, correctional facilities, water conservation projects, and public building construction and repair. In fiscal year 2018, the State Land Office collected \$852 million from lease payments, oil and gas lease sale earnings, rights-of-way, permits, interest, fees, and oil, gas, and mineral royalties.