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SB 458 Unanimously Passes Senate Conservation

SANTA FE, NM – Senate Bill 458, to increase transparency in land office deals, unanimously passed the Senate Conservation Committee Tuesday morning.

After passage, bill sponsor Senator Daniel Ivey-Soto (D-15) said, “I want to thank my fellow members, the state land office, and the oil and gas industry for coming together to pass this critical transparency bill. This is an important first step in guaranteeing our communities are informed and have a voice in the process.”

“My office has already implemented these changes internally, but today we are one step closer to assuring transparency for all future land office administrations. When we are making decisions that involve state trust lands, which belong to the citizens of New Mexico, everyone should have ample opportunity to provide feedback on those decisions,” Commissioner Garcia Richard added.

Support for the bill ranged from the League of Women Voters and Common Cause New Mexico, to the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association, San Juan County, and multiple private oil and gas companies.

SB 458 now goes to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

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.