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Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2026 2:40 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports the new oil and gas bonding rules being proposed by the Commissioner of State Lands.

LWVNM supports environmentally sound regulation and enforcement to prevent drilling activities from contaminating surface or groundwater or the surrounding landscape. Companies should be required to obtain adequate bonding or other financial guarantees for drilling activities to fund clean-up operations in the event of abandonment by the oil and gas companies. This cost should not be left to the taxpayers.

We support the State Land Office proposal to revise and update the bonding requirements for companies operating on state lands. The current rates do not begin to cover the costs of plugging inactive wells and cleaning up areas contaminated by the extraction activities.

It's time to modernize the requirements and protect state lands. We ask you to approve these rules.

Judith Williams, Board member

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