

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF LEA
RESOLUTION NO. 21-SEP-184R

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2021-052
SETTING 30 X 30 GOAL

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden issued Executive Order 14008 entitled *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad* (86 Fed. Reg. 7,619); *and*

WHEREAS, in Section 216 of Executive Order 14008, President Biden directed the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and other senior officials, to develop a program to conserve at least 30 percent of the lands and waters in the United States by 2030, which is called the "30 x 30" program; *and*

WHEREAS, on July 22, 2021, at its regularly scheduled meeting the Board of County Commissioners of Lea County adopted Resolution No. 21-JUL-132R opposing the Federal 30 x 30 program, including its objective of permanently preserving 30 percent of the Nation's lands in their natural state by 2030, or any similar program that will set aside and prevent the productive use of millions of acres of our national, state, and county lands; *and*

WHEREAS, on August 25, 2021, the Governor of the State of New Mexico issued Executive Order 2021-052 titled *Protecting New Mexico Lands, Watersheds, Wildlife, and Natural Heritage* with the stated purpose of setting "the goal of having at least 30 percent (30%) of all lands in New Mexico conserved by 2030, with an additional twenty percent (20%) designated as climate stabilization areas"; *and*

WHEREAS, while the Board of County Commissioners of Lea County acknowledges that the goals of protecting New Mexico lands, watersheds, wildlife, and natural heritage are laudable, Executive Order 2021-052 lacks detail as to the means and effectiveness of any setting aside of lands in the State of New Mexico; *and*

WHEREAS, Executive Order 2021-052 fails to state which or what type of lands are to be set aside, and therefore leads to speculation as to which lands would be set aside with potential impact on State trust lands that generate significant revenue for the State, its local governments, its educational institutions, and its infrastructure or potential impact on private ownership of lands a fundamental constitutional right of citizens requiring due process and fair compensation; *and*

WHEREAS, Executive Order 2021-052 fails to recognize and acknowledge the economic drivers of the State's economy, namely the oil and gas industry and ranching; *and*

WHEREAS, Executive Order 2021-052 fails to recognize that the economy of the State of New Mexico is dependent on the use of its lands. It further fails to recognize that the New Mexico State Land Office manages some nine million surface acres and 12.7 million subsurface acres of trust land that in 2020 generated revenue of \$1,055,497,922.00 - revenues that helped finance state government, county governments, municipal governments, education, infrastructure, etc.; *and*

WHEREAS, the setting aside of land as proposed would substantially reduce State and other revenue and significantly impact the economy to a degree that more likely than not would destroy the economy; *and*

WHEREAS, more than forty-seven percent (47.4%) of the land in New Mexico is already public land the use of which generates substantial and necessary revenue to the State to provide essential services to its citizens; *and*

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 2021-052 is vague and ambiguous in detail of how such designation of lands within New Mexico will be implemented and lacks any scientific evidence of how such designation is necessary and effective in securing the future of New Mexico.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Lea County as follows:

1. The Board opposes the Governor's Executive Order No. 2021-052 as it is deficient in detail and lacks any scientific basis for its so-called solution, namely a setting aside of land, public or private.

2. The Board supports the continued private ownership of land in the County, recognizing the State's need for revenue from domestic sources of minerals, energy, timber, and food.

3. The Board recognizes and supports the State of New Mexico's water rights system, and other state laws and programs governing water rights and water use and opposes any designation of waters and watercourses that would impair or restrict water diversions and uses authorized under New Mexico law.

4. The Board supports reasonable national, regional, and global greenhouse gas emissions policies and goals that are comprehensive, practical, cost-effective, and do not unnecessarily single out specific industries or activities but opposes the use of global climate change as an excuse to set aside large tracts of land as preserves or open space to fulfill the 30 x 30 program's objectives.

5. The Board also maintains that any lands or other rights that are acquired to fulfill the 30 x 30 program's objectives should be acquired only from willing landowners and for the payment full and fair market value for all rights and interests acquired, and not through regulatory compulsion, and only after analyzing and considering the impacts of such land acquisitions on the well-being, health, safety, welfare, economy, and culture of Lea County, its businesses, and its citizens.

6. The Board recognizes the importance of the oil and gas industry and ranching to the State's economy and to the State's ability to provide for the health and welfare of its citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission shall send a copy of this Resolution to the State of New Mexico and any other relevant State agencies.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED on this 2nd day of September 2021, by the Lea County Board of County Commissioners in an open meeting in Lovington, New Mexico.

LEA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Lea County

SEP 02 2021

LCBCC Meeting

Rebecca Long

Rebecca Long (District 2), Chair
Voted: Yes No Abstain

Dean Jackson

Dean Jackson (District 1), Vice Chair
Voted: Yes No Abstain

Gary G. Eidson

Gary G. Eidson (District 3), Member
Voted: Yes No Abstain

Jonathan Sena

Jonathan Sena (District 4), Member
Voted: Yes No Abstain

Pat Sims

Pat Sims (District 5), Member
Voted: Yes No Abstain

ATTEST: Keith Manes
Lea County Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL
SUFFICIENCY:

By: Teri Davis
Teri Davis, Deputy Clerk

John W. Caldwell
John W. Caldwell, County Attorney

