March 10, 2021

Sen. Daniel Ivey-Soto
New Mexico Senate
490 Old Santa Fe Trail
Santa Fe, NM 87501

daniel.ivey-soto@nmlegis.gov

Dear Sen. Ivey-Soto,

As a past Dixon award recipient and open government champion, you know the importance of House Bill 55. It is a measure that would reform the capital outlay process so that within 10 days of the governor signing or vetoing the capital outlay bill, the legislature would publish a searchable list identifying the projects sponsored by each legislator, and how much funding each legislator allocated to each project.

After the bill’s passage in the House Rep. Matthew McQueen said, “Transparency around government spending increases public trust and makes us more responsive and accountable to our voters. House Bill 55 will make capital outlay appropriations as transparent as all of our other official legislative actions.”

The Senate Co-sponsor, Sen. Bill Tallman, has also said, “Making New Mexico’s capital outlay process transparent is long overdue. This reform will help improve historically low trust in government.”

Yet this reform can only happen if this bill moves forward and currently it is in limbo in the Senate Rules Committee – a committee you chair.

The New Mexico Foundation for Open Government applauds these efforts to increase the transparency of state government and we urge you to help this bill move forward.

House Bill 55 was supported by several nonpartisan groups --Think New Mexico, Common Cause New Mexico, the League of Women Voters of New Mexico and the American Institute of Architects – New Mexico.

Please add this bill to the Rules Committee agenda and continue to bring sunshine to our state.

Sincerely,

Susan Boe
NMFOG President

Melanie J. Majors
NMFOG Executive Director