March 18, 2021

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham  
sent via email:  dominic.gabello@state.nm.us
Governor State of New Mexico  
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490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Lujan Grisham,

The New Mexico Foundation for Open Government (FOG) respectfully ask you to sign House Bill 55, the Capital Outlay Bill, a measure that would reform the capital outlay process in New Mexico. If you sign this bill, 10 days later the state will create a searchable list identifying the capital outlay projects sponsored by each legislator, and how much funding each legislator allocated to each project.

The Senate and the House both gave the bill wide support. After the bill’s passage in the House, Sponsor 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.”

Here are some facts to consider:

- The Legislature is currently proposing a $518 million capital outlay package. This is an enormous amount of tax dollars, and state and taxpayers should know where this money will be spent.
- The state’s own records show about $1.4 billion for 2,644 projects remained unused but because the current system is secretive, there is no accountability about the projects, their location or their sponsors.

New Mexico taxpayers need to know where their tax dollars are going, yet this reform can only happen if you sign this bill and it becomes law.

House Bill 55 was supported by several nonpartisan groups –Think New Mexico, Common Cause New Mexico, the League of Women Voters of New Mexico, the American Institute of Architects– New Mexico and the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government. Please, sign this bill and bring real reform to the capital outlay process.

Sincerely,

Susan Boe  
President

Melanie J. Majors  
Executive Director