March 14, 2021

Sen. George Munoz
New Mexico Senate
490 Old Santa Fe Trail
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Senator Munoz,

On behalf of the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government, please take a strong step in support of open government in this Sunshine Week and schedule a hearing in the Senate Finance Committee for House Bill 55.

This is not a new measure, in fact in 2019 Sen. John Arthur Smith let the same bill out of the Senate Finance Committee without a hearing. Why? Because the bill has no fiscal impact. None then and none now.

What this measure would accomplish is to 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.

This bill makes the process accountable and is long overdue. Yet this reform can only happen if this bill moves forward and currently it needs to be heard in the Senate Finance Committee.

The New Mexico Foundation for Open Government applauds 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 Senate Finance Committee agenda and continue to bring sunshine to our state.

Sincerely,

Melanie J. Majors
NMFOG Executive Director

Cc: Wayne Probst, Sen. Munoz Chief of Staff, Wayne.Probst@nmlegis.gov