



New Mexico State Senate

STATE CAPITOL

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Received

2019 MAY 14 AM 11:05

Office of the Governor

May 14, 2019

HAND DELIVERED

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
New Mexico Office of the Governor
490 Old Santa Fe Trail, Suite 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Lujan Grisham:

We are writing to express concerns about the decision to use Expo New Mexico dormitories for the temporary housing of migrants seeking asylum in the United States. While we are not opposed to the use of Expo New Mexico facilities to temporarily house asylum seekers, we find it problematic that programs that benefit New Mexico's residents and communities may be canceled or relocated because of this decision.

Initial news reporting on this issue indicated that no events scheduled to be held at the state fairgrounds would be impacted by the housing of asylum seekers at Expo New Mexico. We have now learned, however, that the annual 4-H Horse School, which has a long, 30-year tradition of being held at the state fairgrounds in Albuquerque, is being relocated to Las Cruces to accommodate the hosting of asylum seekers at the fairgrounds. This last-minute move of the 4-H Horse School has greatly disappointed the students who look forward to going to the "big city" and the beautiful fairgrounds and has created a hardship on New Mexico families participating in that event.

It is concerning that programs that benefit New Mexico's youth may be disrupted in favor of housing migrant families at the state fairgrounds. Expo New Mexico has ample other facilities and grounds that could be used to house asylum seekers without impacting the long-scheduled 4-H event. We are further concerned that the 4-H event will not be the last event scheduled to take place at Expo New Mexico that will be negatively impacted.

We question whether other events held at Expo New Mexico that are integral to New Mexico's communities, such as the New Mexico State Fair in September, will be adversely affected by this decision, and we seek your assurances that they will not. We are also requesting that the decision to use the dormitories be reevaluated and that the asylum seekers be given temporary housing that does not adversely affect New Mexico youth.

We thank you for your attention to our concerns and look forward to your reply so that we and our constituents will have a better understanding of what to expect at our treasured Expo New Mexico this busy summer and fall season.

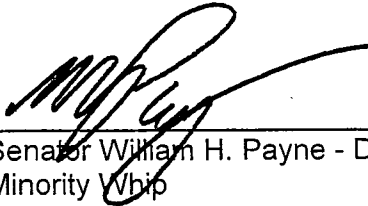
Sincerely,



Senator Stuart Ingle - District 27
Minority Floor Leader



Senator Steven P. Neville - District 2
Minority Caucus Chair



Senator William H. Payne - District 20
Minority Whip



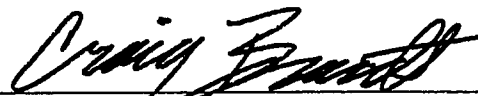
Senator Gay G. Kernan - District 42



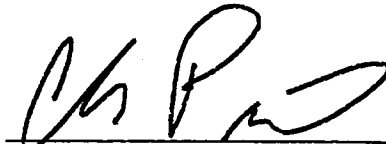
Senator Gregory A. Baca - District 29



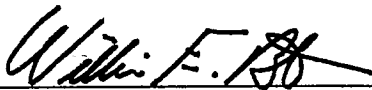
Senator Mark Moores - District 21



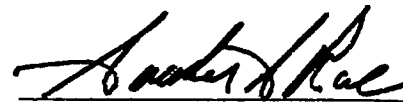
Senator Craig A. Brandt - District 40



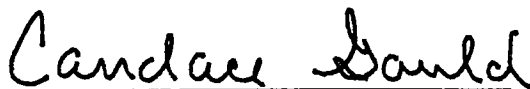
Senator Cliff R. Pirtle - District 32



Senator William F. Burt - District 33



Senator Sander Rue - District 23



Senator Candace Gould - District 10



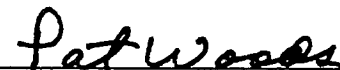
Senator William E. Sharer - District 1



Senator Ron Griggs - District 34



Senator James P. White - District 19



Senator Pat Woods - District 7