



June 29, 2016

Director Neil Kornze
Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street NW, Rm. 5665
Washington DC 20240

CC: Amy Lueders, BLM New Mexico State Director

RE: BLM's Cancellation of the October 19, 2016 Oil and Gas Lease Sale Near Chaco Culture National Historical Park in New Mexico

Director Kornze:

On behalf of nearly 300 affiliate members and more than 400,000 grassroots members – 3,500 of which reside in or near Farmington, NM – Consumer Energy Alliance (CEA) submits the attached petition with the signatures of 651 New Mexico citizens asking the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to reconsider its decision to cancel the October 19th oil and gas lease sale near Chaco Culture Nation Historical Park in New Mexico and to hold the lease sale as originally scheduled.

CEA, a national non-profit trade association, and its members represent nearly every sector of the U.S. economy including farmers, small business owners, manufacturers, truckers, airlines, chemical producers, and iron and steel manufacturers. As the voice of the energy consumer, CEA strongly supports oil and gas leasing on federal lands that is unencumbered by unnecessary burdens to development in order to ensure that each U.S. consumer has access to affordable, reliable energy.

By cancelling this lease's sale, the BLM is adding economic strain to a state that is already under duress. The reality of this decision is that New Mexico will not create hundreds of needed jobs; will not realize millions in private investment, and new – greatly needed – tax revenue will not be collected to support New Mexico's schools, public safety personnel, and municipal services, such as road repairs.

The decision to cancel a lease sale in a major natural gas producing area ignores the growing importance of natural gas to the U.S. economy and its pivotal role in reducing carbon and other pollutant emissions. As hydraulic fracturing has opened new areas of low carbon shale gas, natural gas production is up 47 percent and the industry's carbon emissions are down by 21 percent. Such improvements in emissions have also been seen across all sectors of the economy including the auto and manufacturing industries.

By reconsidering its decision and reinstating the cancelled October 19th oil and gas lease sale near Chaco Culture National Historical Park, the BLM will ensure that New Mexico's citizens have jobs and economic prosperity while all American consumers have access to affordable, reliable energy sources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Holt", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

David E. Holt
President, Consumer Energy Alliance
consumerenergyalliance.org