

April 10, 2015

SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 19

The Honorable Mary Kay Papen, President Pro Tempore and  
Members of the New Mexico State Senate  
State Capitol Building  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Honorable President Pro Tempore Papen and Members of the Senate:

Pursuant to the Constitution of the State of New Mexico, Article IV, Section 22, I hereby VETO and return SENATE BILL 114, as amended, enacted by the Fifty-Second Legislature, First Session, 2015.

Senate Bill 114 would allow counties and municipalities to impose a new tax on special fuels.

Although this bill would only allow for an additional tax increase on “special” fuels, such as diesel, a substantial number of New Mexico families and businesses rely on these types of fuel and would undoubtedly be negatively impacted by raising their cost. Many New Mexicans rely on diesel fuel to get to and from work, conduct their business, move goods from one part of the state to another, and transport our children to and from school in buses.

I understand and agree with the assertion that we need to invest more resources into improving our highways and roads throughout the state. In fact, just this session, I put forward a plan that would have committed \$300 million in infrastructure funding over the next five years to do just that.

Frequently, government resorts to increasing taxes without first looking at how existing dollars can be better maximized, or prioritized. For example, our severance tax bonds are supposed to be used for large infrastructure projects, like roads. Far too often, they are instead used on projects that do not create jobs and do not provide a lasting benefit to our statewide infrastructure systems. Additionally, we should explore moving motor vehicle excise funding out of the general fund and back to the road fund, where it belongs. Similar conversations and discussions should be had at the local level as well.

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Particularly when talking about taxes that affect the daily lives of families and businesses in so many ways, it is vital that we adequately explore and utilize all other avenues for achieving our shared goals.

Respectfully yours,

Susana Martinez

Governor

RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Time: \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. p.m.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2015

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State

Time: \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. p.m.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2015

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the Senate