

March 9, 2022

SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 50

The Honorable Mimi Stewart, President Pro Tempore
and Members of the New Mexico State Senate
State Capitol Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear President Pro Tempore Stewart and Members of the Senate:

I have decided to veto SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 48, as amended (“SB 48”), commonly known as “the junior bill,” which would have appropriated funding for various projects. Despite its nickname, SB 48 is anything but “junior”; it is littered with tens of millions of appropriations. Yet SB 48 circumvents the important budget and capital outlay process that forms the basis for other large appropriations bills.

As I have stated in previous veto messages, fiscal responsibility must be a cornerstone principle of all State expenditures—both in boom times and in times of economic uncertainty. This can be boiled down to a simple formula: any significant expenditure of State funds should represent a thoughtful investment in the present or future of New Mexico and New Mexicans.

Unfortunately, I am unconvinced that SB 48’s distribution of over \$50 million in funds for various projects upholds principles of fiscal responsibility or, on the whole, represents a wise investment at present. For example, many of the projects listed in SB 48 are not fully funded—leaving open the possibility that money will be wasted on projects that will never be completed. This is unacceptable. While I’m sure my veto today is disappointing to many, it is my sincere hope that it will serve as a catalyst for changing this process going forward to ensure that all such substantial expenditures are warranted and prudent.

For these reasons, and pursuant to my authority under Article IV, Section 22 of the New Mexico Constitution, I have vetoed SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 48, as amended, enacted by the Fifty-Fifth Legislature, Second Session, 2022.

Respectfully yours,

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Time: _____ a.m. p.m.

Date: _____ 2022

By _____
Secretary of State of New Mexico

Time: _____ a.m. p.m.

Date: _____ 2022

By _____
Chief Clerk of the Senate