



State of New Mexico

April 5, 2013

SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 56

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

Dear 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 FINANCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 12, as amended, which was enacted during the Fifty-First Legislature, First Session, 2013.

Senate Bill 12 would make significant changes to the New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA) by allowing the Legislature to appoint four of the board members while simultaneously stripping the board of subject-matter experts who currently oversee the financing of critical local infrastructure projects. Because of the nature of projects that are overseen by the NMFA, having cabinet secretaries or others who specialize in environment, energy, finance, and economic development is not only necessary, it is vital to carrying out the mission of the NMFA.

The changes in Senate Bill 12 fail to address the real structural challenges with the NMFA, which stem from its role as a quasi-public agency that is not subject to adequate public accountability. I personally asked one of the bill's sponsors to embrace reform that would bring the NMFA under the State Budget Act and the Procurement Code. I was extremely disappointed that those recommendations were not considered or reflected in the final version of the bill.

During the last nine months, my appointees to NMFA have engineered a dramatic turnaround so that NMFA's line of credit has been restored and will be able to issue bonds again this spring. This is a significant step but my administration will continue to work to increase NMFA's effectiveness and accountability while providing critically important assistance to local governments. I look forward to continuing the discussion on ways the legislative and executive branches can collaborate and further improve the functions and accountability of the New Mexico Finance Authority.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susana Martinez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "S".

Susana Martinez

Governor

RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR