

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF SANTA FE COUNTY**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2016 - 112**

---

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CONSERVATION OF OIL AND  
GAS, A NATURAL RESOURCE**

---

**WHEREAS**, energy development is critically important to the economy of the State of New Mexico;

**WHEREAS**, each year oil and gas companies waste more than \$100,000,000 on federal and tribal lands in New Mexico alone;

**WHEREAS**, enough natural gas is wasted on federal and tribal lands across the United States each year to have met the home heating needs for a population larger than the State of New Mexico;

**WHEREAS**, the Bureau of Land Management typically does not charge royalties on methane – the primary component of natural gas – that is leaked, flared or vented

**WHEREAS**, oil and gas revenue is the cornerstone of the State of New Mexico's educational funding and the State is facing a \$120,000,000 shortfall over the next two years;

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Mexico lost upwards of \$50,000,000 in tax revenue for education due to natural gas waste on public lands over the last five (5) years;

**WHEREAS**, independent economic analysis has shown that cutting natural gas waste would be net-positive for existing oil and gas wells in the San Juan Basin under any price scenario;

**WHEREAS**, the Bureau of Land Management has proposed new rules that would modernize how the government accounts for methane waste on public lands;

**WHEREAS**, the recent National Aeronautics and Space Administration study discovered a methane cloud the size of Delaware above the Four Corners region where much of the venting, flaring and leaks occur;

**WHEREAS**, technologies to cut methane waste would also cut toxic air pollutants such as benzene and ozone-forming volatile organic compounds and greenhouse gases;

**WHEREAS**, recent studies show that as much as 90% of the methane wasted could be put to use;

WHEREAS, our neighboring state of Colorado saw an increase in natural gas production after adopting state rules to cut methane waste; and,

WHEREAS, efforts to cut methane waste have spurred new economic development by companies working to address methane mitigation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County hereby supports a strong and final Bureau of Land Management natural gas waste rule to cut methane waste on the State of New Mexico's federal and tribal lands.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 27<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2016.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF SANTA FE COUNTY

*Miguel M. Chavez*  
Miguel M. Chavez, Chair

ATTEST:

*Geraldine Salazar*  
Geraldine Salazar, Santa Fe County Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM:

*Gregory S. Shaffer*  
Gregory S. Shaffer, County Attorney

COUNTY OF SANTA FE )  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss  
BCC RESOLUTIONS  
PAGES: 2  
I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
Record On The 29TH Day Of September, 2016 at 10:05:11 AM  
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1805738  
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County  
Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office  
Geraldine Salazar  
Deputy *Laura Hernandez* County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

