

**SANTA FE COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 051**

Introduced by: Commissioner Hank Hughes and Commissioner Camille Bustamante

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**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING LEGAL IMMUNITY FOR FOSSIL FUEL COMPANIES**

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**WHEREAS**, the American Petroleum Institute – the largest oil and gas trade lobbying group in the United States – has announced that stopping climate lawsuits and climate superfund laws are among their top legislative priorities in 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, sixteen Republican attorneys general have called for a legal “liability shield” for Big Oil modeled after a federal 2005 law which shields gun manufacturers from lawsuits; and

**WHEREAS**, America's courts play a critically important role in our system of checks-and-balances, and any legislation, whether in Congress or state legislatures, that attempts to limit or eliminate Santa Fe County’s access to court by preempting existing laws or giving fossil fuel companies immunity from lawsuits over damages and associated costs undermines the rule of law; and

**WHEREAS**, the risk of wildfires in Santa Fe County is increasing due to climate change caused by the burning of fossil fuels; and

**WHEREAS**, Santa Fe County residents are seeing increase in property insurance rates due to increasing wildfire risk.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners hereby:

1. Categorically opposes any legislation, whether in Congress or state legislatures, that seeks to limit or eliminate access to the courts by preempting existing laws or granting immunity to fossil fuel companies from liability or lawsuits seeking to hold the industry accountable for deceptive conduct and the costs of climate change; and
2. Affirms its support for the rights of cities, counties, tribes, and states to pursue litigation and legislation to hold the fossil fuel industry accountable for the climate change-related harms.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON THIS 28<sup>th</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2026.**


**SANTA FE COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Justin S. Greene, Chair

SFC CLERK RECORDED 05/01/2026

ATTEST:

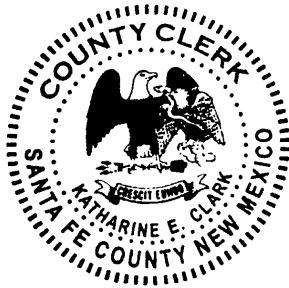
  
Katharine E. Clark  
Santa Fe County Clerk


Date: 05/01/2026

Approved as to form:

*Peter Valencia for*

Walker Boyd  
Santa Fe County Attorney



COUNTY OF SANTA FE            )  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO        ) ss  
BCC RESOLUTIONS  
PAGES: 2  
[ Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
Record On The 1ST Day Of May, 2026 at 03:19:44 PM  
and Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # **2082686**  
of The Records Of Santa Fe County  
Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office  
Katharine E. Clark  
Deputy  County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

SFC CLERK RECORDED 05/01/2026