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NEW MEXICO OIL AND GAS ASSOCIATION

September 24, 2019

The Honorable Donald Trump
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

I am writing you today on behalf of the New Mexico Oil & Gas Association, (NMOGA) a coalition of more than 1,000 oil and natural gas companies operating in New Mexico. The oil and gas industry supports over 100,000 jobs in New Mexico, the majority of which are in communities that align with your America First energy policies.

NMOGA represents two refineries in Artesia and Gallup that are vital to New Mexico's economy and employee approximately 800 individuals. Refineries both large and small provide stable and high-paying manufacturing jobs, which are a key driver of New Mexico's economy. In fact, the oil and gas industry has a job multiplier effect of 14 – meaning that for each 100 jobs, the sector supports 1,400 jobs.

Recently, it has been suggested by some in the biofuels industry that the overall required blending amounts be changed to meet levels that are not realistically achievable for current domestic production. According to data generated by your Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency mandated 19.29 billion gallons of renewable fuel in 2018 when only 18.56 billion gallons were available domestically. As a result of this deficit, fuel was actually imported to help meet renewable fuel standard compliance.

At the same time, data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows that ethanol production and consumption are at all-time highs, as your Administration continues to appropriately grant waivers to small refineries disproportionately impacted by the renewable fuel standard.

Furthermore, New Mexico's liquid fuels markets struggle to meet the renewable fuel standard compliance due to the lack of domestic biofuels production in the state, cold weather climate challenges, and limited infrastructure to blend biofuel products.

Any increase of biofuels mandates will drive up consumer costs that impact the nearly 600,000 automobiles on New Mexico roads. Increasing biofuels mandates will also increase our dependence on foreign fuels to comply with federal requirements that don't make sense in New Mexico.

NMOGA believes that the status quo approach has unleashed U.S. energy dominance while supporting vital refining jobs in New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Ohio and we respectfully request you to maintain the current approach.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Flynn".

Ryan Flynn
Executive Director