



State of New Mexico
House of Representatives
Santa Fe

JAMES G. TOWNSEND
REPUBLICAN FLOOR LEADER

R - Chaves, Eddy & Otero
District 54

69 W. Compress Road
Artesia, NM 88210
Home Phone: (575) 748-3827
Cell Phone: (575) 703-0153
E-mail: james.townsend@nmlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:
Energy, Environment & Natural Resources
Judiciary
Printing & Supplies
Rules & Order of Business

March/7/2019

The Honorable Maggie Toulouse Oliver
Office of the Secretary
New Mexico Secretary of State
325 Don Gaspar Ave #300
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Madam Secretary,

We as public officials have sworn an oath to not only protect the United States and New Mexico Constitutions, but to also represent those who elected us into office. The statewide reaction to certain bills that have been introduced this legislative session has been unprecedented. The events happening in the New Mexico legislature do not reflect the will of the overwhelming majority of voters and they seek the remedy provided to them by law to overturn those actions.

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 1 of the New Mexico Constitution, We are requesting your office prepare petitions for the disapproval and suspension of language amended into Senate Bill 8, introduced the first session of the 54th Legislature. Specifically we are requesting petitions to annul the new statutes amended into Article 7 of Chapter 30 NMSA: UNLAWFUL SALE OF A FIREARM WITHOUT A BACKGROUND CHECK.

As you know, Article IV, Section 1. [Vesting of legislative power; location of sessions; referendum on legislation] states:

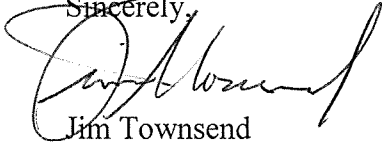
The people reserve the power to disapprove, suspend and annul any law enacted by the legislature, except general appropriation laws; laws providing for the preservation of the public peace, health or safety; for the payment of the public debt or interest thereon, or the creation or funding of the same, except as in this constitution otherwise provided; for the maintenance of the public schools or state institutions, and local or special laws.

Article IV, Section 1 further notes that if 10% of the qualified electors sign such a petition and return it within four months of the next general election, your office is required to submit the question of the law's approval or rejection for annulment on the next general election ballot.

While Senate Bill 8 is awaiting formal signature from Governor Lujan Grisham, she has clearly expressed her intention to sign it into law.

As elected officials we have the duty to be responsive to our constituents, especially when their will has been disregarded. We intend to begin the petition process as soon as Senate Bill 8 is signed and appreciate your willingness to have the proper paperwork prepared in advance.

Sincerely,



Jim Townsend
House Republican Leader



Rod Montoya
House Republican Whip

HAND DELIVERED