



State of New Mexico
House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL
Santa Fe

June 22, 2020

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor, State of New Mexico
Capitol Building
490 Old Santa Fe Trail
Suite 400
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Governor:

We are writing to share with you the many concerns expressed by our constituents that due to your Executive Orders and related Public Health Orders, county fairs in New Mexico will not be able to operate this year. These county fairs, which are a unique part of rural New Mexico's agricultural heritage, provide New Mexico's youth with an opportunity to highlight the results of their efforts to raise healthy livestock and other various projects. They also represent a fun and family oriented experience that allows multi-generations of New Mexicans to see first-hand the bounty that our state's agricultural economy is proud to produce.

Therefore, we strongly encourage you to modify current and future Public Health Orders to permit New Mexico's county fairs to continue operations this summer. We are confident these county fairs can protect the health and safety of fairgoers by observing and implementing all CDC guidelines. This decision to allow our county fairs to operate will send a strong signal the hard work and dedication our state's young people have put into their livestock and other projects are still an essential part of their upbringing.

In addition, enclosed are more than 2,000 signatures from concerned citizens, parents, volunteers, and county fair exhibitors expressing their views that county fairs are important to New Mexico's rural young people and should be permitted to operate. We believe these voices are just a small sample of thousands of New Mexicans who share the same opinion that county fairs must continue during the current season.

Related to the allowed opening of county fairs, current Public Health Orders also need to be changed to permit Extensive Service county agents and FFA advisors to conduct face-to-face assistance to those young people who are managing these livestock and other projects. The lack of face-to-face guidance can be a serious handicap in ensuring these projects are ultimately successful.

Your willingness to consider our requests is greatly appreciated. We look forward to your prompt response.

Respectfully yours,

Handwritten signature of Jim Townsend.

Jim Townsend
State Representatives (HD-54)

Handwritten signature of Rod Montoya.

Rod Montoya
State Representative (HD-1)

Handwritten signature of Candy Spence Ezzell.

Candy Spence Ezzell
State Representative (HD- 58)

Gregg Schmedes
State Representative (HD- 22)

Rebecca Dow
State Representative (HD-38)

Gail Armstrong
State Representative (HD-49)

Rachel Black
State Representative (HD-51)

Jack Chatfield
State Representative (HD-67)

Greg Nibert
State Representative (HD-59)

Bill Rehm
State Representative (HD-31)

Paul Bandy
State Representative (HD-3)

James Strickler
State Representative (HD- 2)

David Gallegos
State Representative (HD-61)

Randy Crowder
State Representative (HD-64)

Larry Scott
State Representative (HD-62)

Phelps Anderson
State Representative (HD-66)

Cathrynn Brown
State Representative (HD-55)

Martin Zamora
State Representative (HD-63)

Alonzo Baldonado
State Representative (HD- 8)

Kelly Fajardo
State Representative (HD-7)

Tim Lewis
State Representative (HD-60)

Zach Cook
State Representative (HD-56)

Jason Harper
State Representative (HD- 57)

Jane Powdrell-Culbert
State Representative (HD-44)