
From: Kathleen Groody <kathleengroody@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2017 8:10 AM
To: Sidney Hill
Subject: "Comments on the Proposed Sandoval County Oil and Gas Ordinance"
Attachments: Oil and Gas Exploration.docx

Mr. Hill:

Kindly include this letter in the official record for the Proposed Sandoval County Oil and Gas Ordinance.

Thanks,

Kathleen Groody
kathleengroody@yahoo.com
530-220-0845

November 13, 2017

To: Sandoval County Commissioners

Mr. James Holder-Rhodes

Mr. Jay C. Block

(Chairman) Mr. Don G. Chapman

Mr. Davis J. Heil

Mr. F. Kenneth Eichwald

Re: Comments on the Proposed Sandoval County Oil and Gas Ordinance

Dear Sirs:

My name is Kathleen Groody and I own property, live and farm in Sile, NM. I have a BS and MS Degree in Agriculture/Soil Science from University of California, Davis. I worked for 25 years for the State Water Resources Control Board managing water quality for the State of California.

Much has been stated recently in these chambers concerning the adoption of the Stoddard Ordinance in the current format and how the oil and gas industry will help bring high paying jobs into the County. A perusal of various studies on this topic indicates that the opposite is true.

Since the local labor force doesn't have the skills to operate oil and gas equipment, skilled labor will have to be brought into the County. This means that wages will be sent to families outside the County¹

While the drilling and development phase may require

¹ The Truth About Those Industry Funded Studies, Jannette M. Barth, Ph.D., March 4, 2011

specialized skilled workers, other construction workers are also needed for the roads and pipeline infrastructure. This labor can be supplied by a local labor force. However, if the employment associated with these activities over the year is divided by the number of wells developed, there is less than one local job associated with the development of each well.

In the case of the Raton Basin, employment in oil and gas production is quite low compared to the number of wells and amounts to only 0.12 jobs per well. ² Oil and gas extraction is land, capital, and technology intensive but makes use of limited human labor and offers few employment and opportunities for high pay.

Another study focused on County development strategies concluded that counties that were NOT focused on fossil fuel extraction experienced higher growth rates, more diverse economies, better-educated populations, a smaller gap between high and low income households, and more retirement and investment income. ³ These results also point to a higher tax base and revenue stream for the County itself.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter,

Sincerely,

**Kathleen Groody
82 Sile Rd.
Pena Blanca, NM 87041**

²The Local Economic Impacts of Natural Gas Development In Valle Vidal, New Mexico, Thomas Michael Power, Professor and Chair Economics Department, University of Montana, January 2005.

³ Fossil Fuel Extraction as a County Economic Development Strategy: Are Energy- Focusing Counties Benefiting, Headwaters Economics, September 2008. (<http://headwaterseconomics.org>)