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To: Sidney Hill
Subject: Stoddard Oil and Gas Fracking Ordinance

Jobs, jobs, jobs. It's the rallying cry of our time. And why not? Right livelihood brings self respect, good wages, and ability to take care of one's own and participate in the human community.

Unfortunately the public is continually handed the tired myth that we must have jobs at any cost. Ultimatums and lame excuses frame an either or proposition. Recently the citizenry of Rio Rancho and surrounding communities of Sandoval County saw this golden calf paraded out again by the County Commissioners and the oil and gas industry—we must bow down to the sacred, hungry machinery of big oil and gas or else we will not have jobs, jobs, jobs. It is a sacred cow in New Mexico. No one must touch it.

No matter that these jobs will be only for a short season and a chosen few. No matter that some will grossly profit while externalizing the hidden costs to the public taxpayers and our environment. No matter that it will mean compromising the common wealth of our Rio Grande watershed, air and public health. The gods have spoken. The community is dismissed and their call for a citizen driven process and ordinance is ignored.

We are at the point where fracking, drilling, and mining fossil fuels have diminishing returns—quickly becoming a stranded asset. More expensive and sensitive areas are assaulted, land relentlessly destroyed, biotic communities poisoned to reach the last deposits of buried ancient sunlight. Methane releases become a public nightmare. Water is poisoned.

Countries around the world are reading the writing on the wall. Scotland's Energy Minister recently announced a ban on fracking in the face of "overwhelming" public opposition. They will invest in long term yields and jobs that will last into the next century. In this country, Maryland and New York have banned fracking and some of the voted "best cities to live" focus on outdoor quality of life over industrial development. The public no longer believes the lies of the fossil fuel industry. They have seen their proverbial nests fouled over and over, despite promises that a fuel spill could "never happen here". Neighbor is pitted against neighbor in the

ugly business of selling mineral rights to one, while the other rejects being bought out. In the end all will absorb the sickening effects of fracking and fossil fuel pollution.

It is time to divest. Even the industry itself knows that oil, gas and coal must be kept in the ground to remediate carbon in the air as we raise up an army of clean and renewable energy sources. This is the energy economy of the future. It remains for local politicians to curb their appetite for the profits they and a few pocketbooks and stock investments will see, and begin to work on behalf of the people who have elected them.

In Rio Rancho, the people have spoken and asked commissioners to slow down, listen to concerns and address a citizen's ordinance. It has fallen on deaf ears. We do not want the Stoddard Oil and Gas Ordinance.

- The ordinance would allow one sole staffer to approve drilling permits, with no public notification, comment or input. Drilling permits will simply be checked for completeness then approved within 10-days.
- The ordinance lacks measures to prevent the contamination of an aquifer nearly 1-million people depend on--the ABQ Aquifer. This poses a serious threat to our drinking water supply because the NM Oil Conservation Division (NMOCD) does not require companies to drill test wells for routine oil and gas drilling.

Endangering the air and water of communities all along the Rio Grande, even under the guise of jobs, is irresponsible. It is clear that the public is overwhelmingly against this prospect, even with the thin excuse of "jobs".

A sustainable, non-fossil fuel driven revolution is blooming all around us. Let our leaders unite behind a vision that is larger than the short sighted fossil fuel driven profits of the present and create a diversified portfolio of clean jobs for the future.

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