

NM Legislative Update, A Good Day

March 7, 2013

Yesterday, March 6th, was a very good day at the NM legislature for our industry.

I sent a note to you yesterday that HB 259, the Natural Resource Trustee bill was tabled in the House Energy Committee with a vote by Representatives Magdalena, Ezzell, Strickler, Gray, Bratton and Lewis.

Yesterday afternoon, the Planning and Zoning Committee in Rio Arriba voted to temporarily table their proposed ordinance on the grounds that they needed additional information from our industry. I have been talking to every legislator here in Santa Fe with connections to Rio Arriba to highlight how bad that proposal is for industry. I had also spoken to them about the need for our industry to educate the planning and zoning commission and the County Commissioners on oil and gas issues and had asked to delay any final decisions. I had also spoken to the Governor's office about the ordinance and I believe they were speaking to various legislators about the impact the proposed ordinance would have had on their county. Finally, the hearing was held yesterday. Due to the insanity here in Santa Fe, I did not make it to the meeting. Thank you to all the company folks who have attended the meetings in Tierra Amarilla, Abiqu and Espanola. It sounds like they listened to you and to the pressure from Santa Fe - at least temporarily. I will continue to work with the Planning and Zoning folks, the Commission and the legislators to get this issue permanently killed. But I do need your help, it was because of your involvement, and continued involvement, that we are able to have any effective input on this issue and any other county issue.

Also yesterday afternoon, HB 286, Oil and Gas Financial Assurance, was voted down by the House on a vote of 36 to 32. Unfortunately, in an effort to revive the bill, the sponsor also voted with the majority to table the bill. This means that she will have the ability to pull it back either today or tomorrow when it is expected the legislative clock will roll twice. We will need to continue to support the members who crossed the aisle in support of killing the bill. Representatives Donna Irwin, Sandra Jeff, Mary Helen Garcia, George Dodge and Kiki Saavedra in addition to the entire House Minority voted with industry. We need to make sure every member is in their seat and voting again when this issue comes back up.

HB 531, Attorney Contingency Fees, was supposed to be heard last night. It will probably be heard today. We will need to mobilize the same coalition of conservative members to vote that bill down. However, since that bill will also

impact any party who can potentially be sued by the Attorney General, the group of lobbyists working this issue should be larger and we can pull more votes.

HB 459, the private right of action bill, will be on the calendar this morning.