

How do you want to be remembered?

For some it's fame; others its fortune; for most, sadly, they give no eye to the future; focused instead on only themselves and only on today, with no thought of tomorrow or the world around them.

But for a very select few, they live their life with a purpose; with intentionality; such people seek to improve the lives of those around them; they dare to be bold and they dare to be different; and dare I say, in a world that demands conformity, they insist on being themselves.

I'm convinced that if we spent more time truly considering our legacy, it would, no doubt, better guide our future.

How do you want to be remembered?

It's a question every Legislator should consider; nay, grapple with on an ongoing basis; I'm convinced it would lead to better policy making, more deliberation, and most importantly, actual solutions that benefit the lives of everyday New Mexicans.

So why am I boring you with my philosophical musings and what does any of this have to do with IPANM and the oil and gas industry in New Mexico?

How do you want to be remembered?

It's generally a question we pose at the individual level. But I submit it's also a question we should be asking at the industry level.

Because like it or not, this industry has a legacy. Oil and gas has a legacy that's being written as we speak. But how many of these chapters have actually been written by industry itself? And how many instead have been written by the vocal opponents of the oil and gas industry?

Whether you like it or not, each one of your individual legacies are tied in with the legacy of the oil and gas industry; otherwise, you would not be sitting here subjecting yourself to a longwinded politician.

But what is the legacy of the oil and gas industry; or what should it be, really?

Poverty.

23 million people a year are lost every year from indoor air pollution, and the majority of those are from people having to burn wood and dung as their only fuel source.

Over the next ten years it is estimated that more than 50 million children under the age of 5 will die from poverty. 50 million children under the age of five. Deaths that are both preventable and predictable.

Studies have shown that if you do not have access to reliable and affordable energy, you will never escape poverty. It becomes generational.

The bedrock of escaping generational poverty is access to reliable and affordable energy. What, if anything, does oil and gas provide if not reliable and affordable energy?

In the early 1800's, ninety percent of the world's population lived in extreme poverty. Today, less than ten percent of the world's population lives in extreme poverty. The difference, I submit, are two main drivers: 1) unleashing the power of the free market economic system; 2) the discovery and utilization of fossil fuels.

The oil and gas industry in a very real way over the last century has lead to countless people escaping poverty.

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Jobs

The oil and gas industry provides real economic jobs in our local and rural communities. Areas where there is not much economic activity, let alone opportunity, otherwise.

In a state where the median household income for a family of four is \$54k a year, jobs in this industry routinely exceed that salary.

This industry is also unique in the entrepreneurship opportunities it offers. (elaborate)

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Education

If you understand the New Mexico state budget, you understand that essentially half of our entire budget, and actually closer to 60% if you count higher ed, goes to public education.

Which industry do you think provides this funding source? It's not the film industry, I can assure you of that.

The oil and gas industry is providing real dollars that support every classroom across New Mexico and touch every child that goes through our public education system.

How do you want to be remembered?

Improved quality of life

Out of a barrel of oil comes nearly 6k products. Seriously. Look around. My glass frames. Our clothes. The asphalt you drove here on. Smart phones. Laptops. Medical equipment. Plastics. Increased life spans.

I would challenge this notion that we need to transition away from fossil fuels. Do we need to pursue all form of energy—wind, solar, geothermal, nuclear? Sure. Of course. But this notion that fossil fuels are evil and we must transition away from them at all costs? Transition away from emissions? Sure. We have incredible technology that's making this possible. And this is a win for everyone—the economy, industry, even environmentalists.

It's easy for me to support this industry; if you've subjected yourself to watching me on the House floor you understand how vocal I am in supporting you and defending you; but why? Not \$; because of what this industry means for New Mexico;

We're not done; we're building a future here in New Mexico; there is still hope; with your support I truly believe we can bring New Mexico from the ashes of 50th in so many metrics to one of the tops states that she so desperately deserves

How do you want to be remembered?

I, for one, want to be remembered as someone who helped improve New Mexico in a practical way; and this industry has the opportunity to continue to do just that.

I suggest that industry lean into such a legacy. The time is past for allowing the radical environmentalists to write the chapters in your legacy. Because there is much that the oil and gas industry has to be proud of. And because New Mexico needs you.