

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

Susan M. Boe
President

Michael Melody
Vice President

Sammy Lopez
Secretary

Carl Baldwin
Treasurer

Charles "Kip" Purcell
At-Large Member

Daniel Yohalem
At-Large Member

Immediate Past
President
Karen Moses

DIRECTORS

Mary Ann Armijo
Kathi Bearden
Billie Blair
Dede Feldman
Heather Ferguson
Tom Johnson
Henry Lopez
Sammy Lopez
Paula Maes
Tim Maestas
Steve McKee
Fred Nathan
Jessica Onsurez
Lucas Peerman
Charles R. Peifer
Mary Lynn Roper
Kristelle Siarza
Robert B. Trapp
Gregory Williams

Melanie J. Majors
Executive Director

December 15, 2021

Hon. Peter Wirth
Senate Majority Leader
New Mexico Senate
490 Old Santa Fe Trail
Santa Fe, NM 87501

sent via email peter.wirth@nmlegis.gov

Dear Senator Wirth,

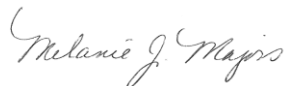
Transparency is at the heart of everything we do at the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government (FOG). The New Mexico's Legislature actions during this past special session show they do not share this value.

For months this summer the Legislature-mandated Redistricting Committee held public meetings and gathered public comment to create fair, equitable maps outlining congressional, state senate and state representative districts. It seems much of their work has been done in vain.

Surveys show that the public wants a process that is open and engaging. FOG believes the public's business should be conducted in full public view, the actions of the public bodies should be taken openly, and all deliberations be made open to the public, yet the Legislature has conducted their meetings about redistricting behind closed doors, in partisan enclaves, eliminating any public access to the proceedings – access that is an essential element of a properly functioning democracy.

The voters in New Mexico deserve better. They want to see transparency in the redistricting process and the new districts. A fair process begins with genuine openness and transparency. The public hearings held across the state were an important blueprint for lawmakers. We request that all negotiations and deliberations regarding redistricting be conducted in an open and transparent manner that is accessible to the public.

Sincerely,



Melanie J. Majors
Executive Director

Cc: Brian Egolf, brian.egolf@nmlegis.gov
Mimi Stewart sent via email: mimi.stewart@nmlegis.gov