



Office of the Governor

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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June 14, 2022

**Gov. Lujan Grisham requests delay of U.S.
Department of Homeland Security plan to
transport migrants, emphasizes New Mexico
cannot shoulder federal responsibilities during
record wildfire season**

SANTA FE – Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham on Tuesday sent a letter to U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas requesting the federal government delay planned or expanded efforts to transport migrants to New Mexico as they would dramatically affect the state’s capacity to provide ongoing humanitarian assistance to wildfire relief efforts.

The letter follows the governor’s [meeting with DHS Sec. Mayorkas last month](#), where she requested additional wildfire disaster assistance from the federal government through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The governor’s request was recently [granted by President Joe Biden](#), who announced that the federal government will cover 100% of costs for emergency protective work and debris removal under New Mexico’s existing wildfire disaster declaration.

In the letter, the governor emphasizes that both state government and local humanitarian organizations are focused on supporting and assisting the thousands of New Mexicans displaced by and affected by the ongoing disaster as numerous wildfires continue to burn throughout the state.

“The existing emergency arising from these wildfires has severely taxed the capacity of our state to provide resources to non-New Mexicans. I cannot allow the governments and communities of the state of New Mexico to shoulder additional burdens falling squarely within the federal government’s purview,” the governor writes.

Regarding the federal government’s plans to address the influx of migrants at the southern border, the governor adds: “I have serious concerns regarding the Department’s readiness to address the influx of individuals who are poised to enter New Mexico if further preparation is

not undertaken. Public safety and health are paramount, and I do not believe that the Department can adequately address these health and safety concerns if existing limitations on migrant entry are lifted.”

The governor will continue to work to ensure that New Mexico communities and governments are not burdened with additional economic and social impacts that would limit or detract from critical wildfire response and recovery efforts.

The letter in its entirety is attached.

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State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

June 14, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me recently. As I said when we spoke, New Mexico is grateful for your efforts, through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to provide timely assistance to New Mexicans impacted by the historic wildfires that continue to burn across our state. These wildfires, for which the Federal Government has taken responsibility for inadvertently setting have taken a toll on our citizens and placed a heavy load on State agencies that provide support and services to those in need.

The existing emergency arising from these wildfires has severely taxed State resources, but we continue to serve New Mexicans impacted by this emergency with all available means. Accordingly, I cannot allow communities in the state of New Mexico to shoulder additional burdens falling squarely within the federal government's purview. To that end, I am respectfully requesting that the Department of Homeland Security ("Department") delay any planned or expanded efforts to transport migrants to locations within the United States.

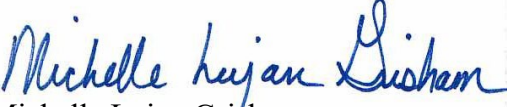
While I understand the difficulty the Department faces in managing the flow of migrants at the southern border in the absence of comprehensive immigration reform, I have serious concerns regarding the Department's readiness to address the influx of individuals who are poised to enter New Mexico if further preparation is not undertaken. Public safety and health are paramount, and I do not believe that the Department can adequately address these health and safety concerns if existing limitations on migrant entry are lifted. Further, New Mexico (and other border states) will bear the brunt of adverse economic and social impacts that are likely to arise from the influx of migrants without additional planning on the part of the federal government. I cannot allow this. Until the matters can be satisfactorily addressed, I cannot support the transport of migrants to New Mexico, which will burden New Mexico government, communities and citizens.

Since taking office, I have lobbied the federal government to address the many flaws in our immigration system and to address border issues. I understand from our discussion that you are

willing to assist on both fronts. Further, I appreciate your assurance that New Mexico's resources will not be expended to address immigration policy.

I am happy to discuss these concerns with you further and look forward to continued dialogue with Department officials on these issues.

Sincerely,



Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor