

February 14, 2017 –

Urgent message from Conservation Voter of New Mexico

Public-Private Partnerships (HB 275) seeks to give private companies control of New Mexico's critical public services – including our water.

A dangerous bill that could put your critical public services, like water, has again been introduced in the State House. Private companies see our dire budget situation as an opportunity to take over the services we all need and depend on. Last seen in 2015, Public-Private Partnerships (now HB 275, Larrañaga/Cisneros) is a sweeping measure that would privatize projects that are most appropriately developed and maintained by public entities. In 2015, you raised your voice and we were able to stop the bill. Together, we can do it again.

The House Transportation, Public Works and Capital Improvements Committee will hear HB 275 first, and it has powerful support in the legislature. If you speak up now, we can stop this dangerous "blank check" legislation in its tracks.

Public-private partnership, or P3, is a catch-all term for any project that partners government with private business. Generally speaking, the more heavily the private sector is involved, the riskier the project is for the public — in financial, social and environmental terms. Examples from across the country and right here in New Mexico have proven the need to take a very cautious approach to P3s.

Private companies are pushing hard to expand P3s in our state. HB 275 is one of the broadest, if not *the* broadest, pieces of P3 legislation in the country in the scope of authorized projects, breadth of governmental entities involved, lack of oversight and public transparency and financial risks. This legislation poses severe threats to our air, land, water and the health of our communities.

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