



State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

March 9, 2020

SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 82

The Honorable Mary Kay Papen, President Pro Tempore and
Members of the New Mexico State Senate
State Capitol Building
Santa Fe, NM 87501


Dear President Pro Tempore Papen and Members of the Senate:

After careful consideration, I have made the decision to veto Senate Finance Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 232 ("SB 232"), which appropriates nearly \$50 million to various local transportation projects. While local infrastructure funding is important and necessary, all expenditures of taxpayer dollars must be viewed through the lenses of prudence and restraint. Fiscal responsibility is paramount.

We do not yet know the degree to which COVID-19 and declining oil prices will impact our State's economy. Given this uncertainty, I bear a heightened obligation to ensure that all significant expenditures constitute a demonstrably sound investment in New Mexico. SB 232 falls short of that mark, because it appropriates nearly \$50 million to road projects whose scope and total cost is often unclear. Such spending is not warranted given the attendant public policy considerations.

For these reasons, and pursuant to my authority under Article IV, Section 22 of the New Mexico Constitution, I have vetoed SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 232, as amended, enacted by the Fifty-Fourth Legislature, Second Session.

Respectfully yours,


Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor