



State of New Mexico

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Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

March 5, 2024

HOUSE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 59

The Honorable Javier Martinez, Speaker of the House and
Members of the New Mexico House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Speaker Martinez and Members of the House:

Pursuant to my authority under Article IV, Section 22 of the New Mexico Constitution, I have signed HOUSE RURAL DEVELOPMENT, LAND GRANTS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL 251 ("HB 251"), enacted by the Fifty-Sixth Legislature, Second Session, 2024, which authorizes a special registration plate with the name and image of Smokey Bear. I note the Legislature has corrected the issues that sent HB 251's predecessor up in smoke last session. While I understand it must have been unbearable to receive my veto message last year, I urge you to see the forest through the trees and bear in mind the limited time the Legislature has in even years when deciding which legislation to introduce and debate—especially during the last few days of the session. Thirty days is barely enough time to pass much meaningful legislation as it is; introducing and debating relatively inconsequential legislation, such as this, only detracts from that precious time and distracts the Legislature from focusing on more important bills.

Despite all this, I have decided to sign HB 251 to avoid spending more time on Smokey next year. I implore the public to enjoy its new right to bear plates responsibly!

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Lujan Grisham".

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Time: 12:53 a.m. (p.m.)
Date: MARCH 5, 2024

By [Signature]
for Secretary of State

Time: 1:38 a.m. (p.m.)
Date: March 5, 2024

By [Signature]
Chief Clerk of the House