

# STAFF REPORTS

## NEW MEXICO GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, Mike Miller, PBPA

Most of the effort this quarter has been centered around the pending methane rules coming from the OCD and the NM Environment Department. Our first big effort legislatively was work with member companies to formulate questions for legislators when Sec. Kenney and Sec. Propst who, along with Ben, On October 28th appeared before the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) to discuss Methane Strategy; proposed rules; cost of implementation; effects on production and the environment. We reached out to many of our friends on the committee both Democrat and Republican with questions for all three panelists. The LFC Executive Director later said he had never seen so many members that well briefed on a subject matter.

Next, we prepared legislators with questions for Sec. Propst when she presented the Energy Minerals and Natural Resources' budget request to the LFC on November 19th. Again, questions were asked of her about the cost of implementing the rule and what impact the rules would have on the economies of local governments as well as the State of New Mexico. Some legislators actually suggested that the implantation of the rules be postponed until there is a clear idea of where the overall economy is headed.

Finally, we did the same preparation of legislators when Sec. Kenney presented the Environment Department's budget to the LFC. Once again, the Secretary was asked to delay the rules until a later date.

Last, the dust has settled on the 2020 election. All members of the NM Legislature were up for election. For the most part the "landscape" remains the same. In the House of Representatives, the Republicans picked up one seat with one seat up in the air for a second recount. If the recount remains the same the split in the House will be 40 (D) 25 (R). In the Senate the Republicans lost one seat to reduce their number to 15.