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Governor Susana Martinez Appoints Ken McQueen as Cabinet Secretary for the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Santa Fe, NM — Today, Governor Susana Martinez announced the appointment of Ken McQueen as cabinet secretary of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department. McQueen most recently served as the vice president of WPX Energy. McQueen had previously worked as a director, manager, and engineer at the company. In that role, McQueen managed the company's assets in the Four Corners area of New Mexico, Colorado, and in addition, part of Wyoming. McQueen starts today.

"I am happy to have Mr. McQueen serve in my administration," Governor Martinez said. "With his extensive knowledge and experience in the engineering field, I'm confident that he will responsibly manage our natural resources, which are so important to our state."

McQueen will take over leadership following former Secretary David Martin's retirement earlier this year. Among many other things, McQueen will be in charge of implementing pieces of the Governor's energy plan, which calls for an "all of the above" approach to energy development that promotes the production of all sources of energy as a means of creating jobs, diversifying the key sector of our economy, and supporting our nation's efforts to achieve energy independence.

McQueen will also play a role in the development of the Rio Grande Trail. In 2015, Governor Martinez signed legislation creating a commission to bring state, local, tribal and private stakeholders together to establish the Rio Grande Trail, which would span 500 miles across the state from Colorado to Texas.

"The Governor has a visionary plan for energy in New Mexico that will diversify our energy production and create thousands of jobs while protecting our state's natural beauty," Secretary McQueen said. "I look forward to continuing the work of the Department in implementing her vision."

McQueen brings over 35 years of domestic and international energy experience. Earlier in his career, he was a joint venture engineer at Vintage Petroleum Inc., and a petroleum engineer at Amerada Hess Corp. He is also an adjunct professor at the University of Tulsa's School of Petroleum Engineering and on the University of Tulsa School of Petroleum Engineering Advisory Board. He is a former Farmington resident and holds a Bachelor of Science in petroleum engineering from the University of Tulsa.

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