

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 28, 2019**

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**Secretary Sarah Cottrell Propst Attends “Just Transitions for Coal-Dependent Communities in the Southwest” Workshop at Arizona State University**  
*EMNRD Joins Representative Nathan Small to Highlight New Mexico’s Leadership on Transition to Renewable Energy*

PHOENIX, AZ: Today, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources (EMNRD) Cabinet Secretary Sarah Cottrell Propst traveled to Arizona State University to join a panel discussing the role of governing institutions in advancing comprehensive planning and assistance for just transitions in the power sector. Representative Nathan Small, co-sponsor of the Energy Transition Act, provided the legislative perspective on the [panel](#).

The workshop focused on how communities may be impacted by the closure of coal plants and mines in the Southwest. With the recently passed Energy Transition Act, New Mexico is building a roadmap for other states on how to address the closure of coal plants for rural communities.

“The Energy Transition Act is not only one of the strongest bills of its kind in the country, it also has crucial components that will help train workers, provide assistance funds for affected communities, and establish committees to engage with stakeholders as we move forward,” said Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Cabinet Secretary Sarah Cottrell Propst. “The panel was a great opportunity to discuss how we can make sure all communities are included in the new renewable energy economy.”

“The Energy Transition Act (ETA) means New Mexico is open for business for solar, wind, and geothermal generated electricity. Our New Mexico values – working together, looking out for your neighbor, and caring for our environment – created the ETA. During today’s Just Transitions workshop, I was proud to share how the legislature and Governor Lujan Grisham united around our shared commitment to helping families, communities, and our state manage this transition in ways to strengthen local communities tomorrow and well into the future,” said Representative Nathan Small.

Attendees included representatives from industry, utilities, state governments, Tribal governments, and federal delegation offices. New Mexico representatives were invited to participate as the Energy Transition Act has gained national attention for its ambitious goals and inclusion of community assistance funding.

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*The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.*

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