

March 1, 2018

HOUSE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 140

The Honorable Brian Egolf, Jr., Speaker of the House and
Members of the House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Honorable Speaker Egolf and Members of the House:

Pursuant to the Constitution of the State of New Mexico, Article IV, Section 22, I hereby VETO and return HOUSE BILL 64, as amended, enacted by the Fifty-Third Legislature, Second Session, 2018.

House Bill 64 institutes a new tax on pet food. Since the day I took office, I have kept my promise to the people of New Mexico that I would not raise taxes. In spite of special interest groups' efforts to spread misinformation, this bill is a tax increase. Although I fully support sensible efforts to spay and neuter pets, this approach is misguided; these procedures should be the responsibility of pet owners. This bill is bad for New Mexico and bad for business.

I strongly encourage New Mexico pet owners to spay and neuter their pets. However, local governments are better suited to promote spay and neuter programs, and many already do, through licensing programs and fines for those who do not spay and neuter their pets. These programs are far more effective than instituting a statewide tax on all New Mexicans who purchase pet food.

For these reasons, I hereby veto House Bill 64.

Respectfully yours,

Susana Martinez
Governor

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Time: _____ a.m. p.m.

Date: _____, 2018

By _____
Secretary of State

Time: _____ a.m. p.m.

Date: _____, 2018

By _____
Chief Clerk of the House