

April 9, 2021

SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 34

The Honorable Mimi Stewart, President Pro Tempore
and Members of the New Mexico State Senate
State Capitol Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear President Pro Tempore Stewart and Members of the Senate:

I am pleased to sign Senate Finance Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 377, as amended, with certificate of correction (“Senate Bill 377”), and enact into law funding for state agency projects and supplemental investments throughout New Mexico. Sound investment of public funds is essential for the State’s economic growth, protection of New Mexico’s natural resources, and the quality of life of New Mexico communities. This bill funds more than \$24.9 million in projects, including \$1.5 million for the judiciary, \$6.4 million for higher education and nearly \$2 million for public education.

While Senate Bill 377 does much to address our State’s supplemental needs, the bill includes appropriations that only perform studies and will not achieve firm results. It is necessary and fiscally prudent to veto these appropriations. For this reason, I have vetoed \$550 thousand in projects, which amount to 2.2 percent of the total project appropriations provided for in Senate Bill 377.

SB 377 also includes \$110 million to support critical broadband investments across New Mexico, \$100 million to repay federal unemployment trust fund loans and bolster the financial position of the trust fund, and \$10.6 million to support tribal education.

In some instances, I have exercised the power that Article IV, Section 22 of the New Mexico Constitution confers on me to disapprove “any part or parts” of Senate Bill 377. I have done so primarily to veto language that would permit agencies to simply encumber, rather than expend, appropriated funds by the specified deadline. This will correct an issue with similar language in

House Bill 548 and Senate Bill 536 from 2019 in which not all agencies actually spent these funds by the intended deadline.

Accordingly, I this day SIGN and RETURN:

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 377, as amended, with certificate of correction, which was enacted during the Fifty-Fifth Legislature, First Session, 2021, except the following item or items, part or parts, which I hereby veto pursuant to the authority granted me in Article IV, Section 22 of the New Mexico Constitution:

On page 1, line 8, I have vetoed the words “or unencumbered”.

On page 1, line 23, I have vetoed the word “or” and on line 24, I have vetoed the word “unencumbered”.

On page 2, line 5, I have vetoed the words “or unencumbered”.

On page 2, line 12, I have vetoed the words “or unencumbered”.

On page 3, I have vetoed lines 3 through 10.

On page 3, line 25, I have vetoed the words “or unencumbered”.

On page 4, I have vetoed lines 3 through 6.

On page 6, I have vetoed lines 13 through 14.

On page 7, I have vetoed lines 18 through 20.

On page 12, line 19, I have vetoed the words “or unencumbered”.

On page 14, line 3, I have vetoed the words “or unencumbered”.

On page 16, line 4, I have vetoed the words “or unencumbered”.

On page 19, I have vetoed lines 11 through 12.

On page 24, on line 2, I have vetoed the word “or” and on line 3, I have vetoed the word “unencumbered”.

On page 24, on line 11, I have vetoed the word “or” and on line 12, I have vetoed the word “unencumbered”.

On page 26, I have vetoed lines 24 through 25 and on page 27, I have vetoed line 1.

On page 27, I have vetoed lines 2 through 4.

On page 27, line 23, I have vetoed the words “or unencumbered”.

On page 29, line 11, I have vetoed the words “or unencumbered”.

On page 30, line 17, I have vetoed the words “or unencumbered”.

On page 32, line 2, I have vetoed the words “or unencumbered”.

On page 32, line 21, I have vetoed the words “or unencumbered”.

On page 35, line 15, I have vetoed the words “or unencumbered”.

On page 36, line 17, I have vetoed the words “or unencumbered”.

Respectfully yours,

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Time: _____ a.m. p.m.

Date: _____ 2021

By _____

Secretary of State

Time: _____ a.m. p.m.

Date: _____ 2021

By _____

Chief Clerk of the House