

From: "Coleman, Michael, GOV" <[REDACTED]@exec.nm.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Thank you for the editorial
Date: July 16, 2024 at 5:33:33 PM MDT
To: "[REDACTED]@abqjournal.com" <[REDACTED]@abqjournal.com>

Can't wait to read it. Working on ours as we speak.

Michael Coleman
Communications Director
Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
From: Jeff Tucker <[REDACTED]@abqjournal.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 5:23:16 PM
To: Coleman, Michael, GOV <[REDACTED]@exec.nm.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Thank you for the editorial

I'm going to post tomorrow's op-eds, including mine, in about 30 minutes. Upper management is totally with the governor on these issues. I am licensed to burn asses as warranted.

Jeff Tucker
Opinion Editor
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Albuquerque Journal – The Sunday Journal
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From: Coleman, Michael, GOV <[REDACTED]@exec.nm.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 4:04 PM
To: Jeff Tucker <[REDACTED]@abqjournal.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Thank you for the editorial

Hi Jeff,

Just got out of an exceedingly long interview with the governor and KOAT. I'm afraid I can't finish and get Gov's approval on the op-ed by 6. But I've blocked off my evening to finish this writing and will have to you early tomorrow.

Thank you for your patience (and for dealing with Montoya. Much appreciated.

Michael Coleman
Communications Director
Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
From: Jeff Tucker <[REDACTED]@abqjournal.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 3:20 PM
To: Coleman, Michael, GOV <[REDACTED]@exec.nm.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Thank you for the editorial

Yep. I'll append it. I correct him with a long editor's note:

OPINION: Gov. should embrace GOP bills to fix 'catch-and-release' and help secure southern border

The Albuquerque Journal's July 13 Sunday Journal editorial calling on state legislators to "put the politics aside and embrace the governor's public safety agenda" sadly was filled with inaccuracies on what Republican legislators have been saying about the proposed July 18 special session.

Unfortunately, this narrative was expanded upon Monday, at a press conference that was held by House and Senate Democratic leadership. To set the record straight, House Republicans have never urged the governor to cancel the special session. Rather, the House Republican leadership sent a letter to the governor on June 10 stating if she was serious about addressing New Mexico's crime issues, she should support bills that would fix our state's "catch-and-release" problem, increase criminal penalties for the trafficking of fentanyl and adopt proposals to help secure our state's southern border.

To this day, the governor has not responded to our letter, but her staff has told media outlets that she does not support increasing penalties for fentanyl trafficking, nor does the governor possess any desire to address the border situation during the special session. Instead, the governor continues to push proposals which, contrary to her claims, will barely make a dent in protecting New Mexicans or make us feel safe in our homes.

Unfortunately, the Journal Editorial Board ignored the glaring question as to why past crime legislation has failed. The state Legislature is dominated by progressive Democrats who are opposed to holding criminals accountable for their actions. This was apparent in the Democratic leaders' press conference, when they couldn't even support the weakest of crime legislation.

Progressives believe that the criminal justice system, bad cops and "systemic racism" are responsible for the actions of these poor criminals.

That being said, House Republicans are not against the governor calling a special session to address public safety. Republicans are against having a special session that deceives the public, and the media, for that matter, into believing that we are addressing crime when we, in fact, are not.

Until there is a fundamental change in New Mexico's leadership, progressive politicians will continue to feign their intent to address our crime problems. However, just as we see with the governor's "public safety" agenda, these so-called solutions have no real impact in making our communities safer, and any of their stated concern about reducing crime will evaporate once the election season is over.

I don't care whether the Journal prints this opinion or not. I just need you to know how frustrating it is when you get our position completely wrong, even when you are provided with all of the information necessary to get it right.

Rod Montoya, R-Farmington, represents District 1 in the New Mexico

House of Representatives and is the House minority floor leader.
Editor's note: The July 13 Sunday Journal included an op-ed from state Rep. Jenifer Jones, R-Deming, stating: "To call for a special session on 'public safety' with no intention of addressing crime is not only a gross display of insincerity, it's a deliberate attempt to mislead New Mexican families." A May 12 Sunday Journal op-ed from state Sen. Greg Nibert, R-Roswell, stated: "My recommendation to the governor is to either put forward some serious solutions, or save the taxpayer's money by calling off this aimless special session." A June 23 op-ed from state Rep. Rod Montoya stated "Spending hundreds of thousands of taxpayers' dollars to bring legislators back to Santa Fe to pass legislation that is not fully vetted and will have no immediate impact on the state's violent crime and drug trafficking problems is not what special sessions are for."

To see the Journal's June 14 editorial "Lawmakers should put the politics aside and embrace the governor's public safety agenda," go to [abqjournal.com](https://www.abqjournal.com)

https://www.abqjournal.com/opinion/editorials/editorial-lawmakers-should-put-the-politics-aside-and-embrace-the-governors-public-safety-agenda/article_f9cd8e92-4013-11ef-a894-fb05e86e1e90.html

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From: Coleman, Michael, GOV <[REDACTED]@exec.nm.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 3:02 PM
To: Jeff Tucker <[REDACTED]@abqjournal.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Thank you for the editorial

Call me anytime. [REDACTED]. He's attacking the ed board for your editorial in support of the governor?

What's your deadline for getting something in today?

Michael Coleman
Communications Director
Office of New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham

From: Jeff Tucker <[REDACTED]@abqjournal.com>
Date: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 at 2:53 PM
To: "Coleman, Michael, GOV" <[REDACTED]@exec.nm.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Thank you for the editorial

Hey Michael. We'll take what we can get from the governor when we can get it. I've got an op-ed from Rod Montoya running tomorrow attacking the ed board. It's hard to like that guy, I had hoped to run the governor's beside it, but we'll manage. I know it's busy.

I hope you're right about persuading Republicans. We committed our support and I'm trying to deliver. I need your number please for urgent questions.

Jeff

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From: Coleman, Michael, GOV <[REDACTED]@exec.nm.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 12:22 PM
To: Jeff Tucker <[REDACTED]@abqjournal.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Thank you for the editorial

HI Jeff,

Just tried to call you. I'm afraid I've blown my self-imposed deadline for this op-ed. As you might imagine, there's been a deluge of media to respond to the past 24 hours and I wasn't able to discuss with the governor until last night.

Having said that I'm making progress. If I had a draft for you very first thing in the morning - not later than 9 am-- would that be too late? Thinking maybe it could post online tomorrow after you edit and then in print for Thursday? It's your page and your call obviously. Also, we very much appreciate your lift on this - not just the editorial but your conversations with GOP leadership, etc. I'm sensing that it is really helping with Republicans.

Thanks again and sorry for this delay.

Michael Coleman
Communications Director
Office of New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham

From: Jeff Tucker <[REDACTED]@abqjournal.com>
Date: Monday, July 15, 2024 at 7:30 PM
To: "Coleman, Michael, GOV" <[REDACTED]@exec.nm.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Thank you for the editorial

No worries, Michael. I'm working on a guest column myself to run on Wednesday about the need for the special session. I'll give it one last try.

Jeff

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From: Coleman, Michael, GOV <[REDACTED]@exec.nm.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2024 4:06 PM
To: Jeff Tucker <[REDACTED]@abqjournal.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Thank you for the editorial

Hi Jeff,

Please plan for Weds. I was only just now able to speak with her and I'm dealing with a lot of queries about today's events. I can have it to you by noon tomorrow.

Thanks again for the opportunity. Sorry I couldn't get it out the door today.

Michael Coleman
Communications Director
Office of New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham

From: Jeff Tucker <[REDACTED]@abqjournal.com>
Date: Monday, July 15, 2024 at 4:01 PM
To: "Coleman, Michael, GOV" <[REDACTED]@exec.nm.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Thank you for the editorial

Just spoke with Rep. Montoya and Sen. Baca. Did my best. I think it looks good on the Senate side. Not so good on the House side.

Column from the governor coming today, or should we plan for Wednesday?

Jeff

Jeff Tucker
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██████████@abqjournal.com
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From: Coleman, Michael, GOV <██████████@exec.nm.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2024 2:05 PM
To: Jeff Tucker <██████████@abqjournal.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Thank you for the editorial

Appreciate that and I can absolutely make that happen. When you'd like to publish? We can try to get it done today but it might be tough given it's already 2 pm.

Thanks for the opportunity.

Michael Coleman
Communications Director
Office of New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham

From: Jeff Tucker <██████████@abqjournal.com>
Date: Monday, July 15, 2024 at 1:07 PM
To: "Coleman, Michael, GOV" <██████████@exec.nm.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Thank you for the editorial

Hey Michael,

We're holding solid on our end about the special session, despite today's carping.

A guest column from the governor might help.

Jeff

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From: Coleman, Michael, GOV <██████████@exec.nm.gov>
Sent: Saturday, July 13, 2024 8:54 PM
To: Jeff Tucker <██████████@abqjournal.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Thank you for the editorial

Thanks, Jeff. What a terrible day for America.

Michael Coleman
Communications Director
Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham

From: Jeff Tucker <[REDACTED]@abqjournal.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 13, 2024 8:20:29 PM
To: Coleman, Michael, GOV <[REDACTED]@exec.nm.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Thank you for the editorial

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Sure thing, Michael. We hope it helps her. I'm about to post an editorial about today and I use the governor's remarks.

Jeff Tucker
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From: Coleman, Michael, GOV <[REDACTED]@exec.nm.gov>
Sent: Saturday, July 13, 2024 8:19 PM
To: Jeff Tucker <[REDACTED]@abqjournal.com>
Cc: Schlegel, Daniel, GOV <[REDACTED]@exec.nm.gov>
Subject: Thank you for the editorial

Hi Jeff,

Thank you so much for the ringing and well-written editorial endorsing the special session and Gov. Lujan Grisham's proposals to make New Mexico safer. The governor and her team very much appreciate it, as we have no doubt the editorial will help focus lawmakers on these critically important issues heading into the special session.

It was a pleasure sitting down with the Journal editorial board this week and we look forward to continuing the dialogue.

Michael Coleman
Communications Director
Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham

From: Jeff Tucker <[REDACTED]@abqjournal.com>
Sent: Friday, July 12, 2024 8:38 PM
To: Coleman, Michael, GOV <[REDACTED]@exec.nm.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Ruidoso

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Posting Sunday's editorial now. We hope it helps.

Jeff Tucker
Opinion Editor

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From: Coleman, Michael, GOV <[REDACTED]@exec.nm.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 11, 2024 3:22 PM
To: Jeff Tucker <[REDACTED]@abqjournal.com>
Subject: Ruidoso

Sorry this took so long and thanks for the inquiry.

We are considering something similar to SB 6 (2023) for the Ruidoso fires to provide up front money to local governments to begin repairing public infrastructure. That money would then be reimbursed by FEMA down the line.

Thank you,

Michael Coleman
Communications Director
Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham

From: Coleman, Michael, GOV <[REDACTED]@exec.nm.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 11, 2024 3:19:27 PM
To: Coleman, Michael, GOV <[REDACTED]@exec.nm.gov>
Subject: Re: RRe: Hi Jeff -- quick question

Sorry this took so long. Appreciate your question.

We are considering something similar to SB 6 (2023) for the Ruidoso fires to provide up front money to local governments to begin repairing public infrastructure. That money would then be reimbursed by FEMA down the line.

Michael Coleman
Communications Director
Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham

From: Coleman, Michael, GOV <[REDACTED]@exec.nm.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 11, 2024 8:08:51 AM
To: [REDACTED]@abqjournal.com <[REDACTED]@abqjournal.com>
Subject: RRe: Hi Jeff -- quick question

Hi Jeff,

Let me see what I can nail down on that today. Back to you ASAP.

And agreed – I'm glad we did that. Thank you for making time for us. I know you're very busy.

Michael Coleman
Communications Director
Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham

From: Jeff Tucker <[REDACTED]@abqjournal.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2024 7:02 PM
To: Coleman, Michael, GOV <[REDACTED]@exec.nm.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Hi Jeff -- quick question

Hey Michael,

Is there any possibility the governor could put aid for Ruidoso and Hermits Peak fire victims on the call for the special session? I neglected to ask her that question today.

Thanks for coming in. I think it was a really productive meeting.

Jeff

Jeff Tucker
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From: Coleman, Michael, GOV <[REDACTED]@exec.nm.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 9, 2024 5:19 PM
To: Jeff Tucker <[REDACTED]@abqjournal.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Hi Jeff -- quick question

Appreciate the quick reply. See you soon.

Michael Coleman
Communications Director
Office of New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham

From: Jeff Tucker <[REDACTED]@abqjournal.com>
Date: Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 4:14 PM
To: "Coleman, Michael, GOV" <[REDACTED]@exec.nm.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Hi Jeff -- quick question

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.
Hi Michael. We're looking forward to it.

Nope, we haven't editorialized on the special session, although we did

suggest the call be widened to include aid for Ruidoso residents.

https://www.abqjournal.com/opinion/editorials/opinion-new-mexico-should-take-over-the-claims-process-for-wildfire-victims/article_fd38dbb6-f90c-11ee-ab9b-87b0a0e8b88c.html

OPINION: New Mexico should take over the claims process for wildfire victims

From the Editorial Board: Who knows, it could become a landmark U.S. Supreme Court case one day – “The pissed-off fire victims of the State of New Mexico vs. FEMA.”

www.abqjournal.com

https://www.abqjournal.com/opinion/editorials/editorial-the-state-must-step-up-and-offer-real-tangible-help-for-ruidoso-fire-victims/article_a65d2a2a-359f-11ef-b007-071cdd3b0ffc.html

But we likely will editorialize on the special session this upcoming Sunday after meeting with the governor.

Jeff

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From: Coleman, Michael, GOV <[REDACTED]@exec.nm.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 9, 2024 3:49 PM
To: Jeff Tucker <[REDACTED]@abqjournal.com>
Subject: Hi Jeff -- quick question

We look forward to seeing you at the Journal tomorrow. Quick question: Have you editorialized at all about the governor’s call for a special session to date? I don’t recall seeing it, but I might have missed it. Website search not yielding anything.

Many thanks,

Michael Coleman
Communications Director
Office of New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham