



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
SECRETARY OF STATE

Senator Mary Kay Papen
State Capitol, Room #105
411 S Capitol Street
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Representative Nate Gentry
State Capitol, Room #134
411 S Capitol Street
Santa Fe, NM 87501

November 5, 2015

Re: **Lobbyist Reporting**

Dear Senator Papen and Representative Gentry,

Thank you for your letter of October 30, 2015 regarding your concerns with lobbyist reporting. First, please know that this office shares your concerns and we are in the process of drafting a rule which will hopefully clarify the many shortcomings in the Lobbyist Regulation Act. As you know significant changes were made to many election-related laws, including the Lobbyist Regulation Act in the 2014 and 2015 legislative sessions. This office has been dedicated for some time to assuring compliance and assisting the public with understanding the law.

I am pleased to hear from legislators interested in working with us in the rulemaking process and look forward to that collaboration. As your letter highlights, there are shortcomings in the law which naturally lead to confusion, and may unfortunately lead to a fundamental misunderstanding in the intent of filing individuals and the appearance of wrongdoing even when the filing individuals are reporting in compliance with the law. While we continuously carry out our statutory mandate to educate and seek voluntary compliance with the law, it is difficult to do when the law is unclear on such a complex subject matter. It is my hope that we can work with not only you, but also other interested individuals and groups to bring clarity to the Lobbyist Regulation Act and other campaign finance reporting laws so that all New Mexicans can trust in a reporting system that is transparent and accessible. To that end, my election director, Kari Fresquez, general counsel, Amy Bailey, and I will make ourselves available to you to further discuss your concerns and begin the steps of working together towards curing the complex issues in transparent reporting.

I look forward to working with you. Should you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary Quintana".

Mary Quintana
Acting Secretary of State