

# City of Bayard

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February 24, 2023

Dear Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham,

Workforce development is critical for the success of our state and region. In our area we have a shortage of even the basic skills of plumbing, electrical, welding, and general construction. Additionally, local employers of both the public and private sectors have great needs for CDL drivers, mechanics, and carpenters. This labor force is currently in high demand with a very limited pool of properly trained individuals to meet this demand. I am writing to you to ask your support in funding for a vocational workforce center to be located to the south of Bayard on highway 180 on land to be donated by Freeport McMoRan.

While I would love to have such a center directly in my town, I also recognize that having multiple centers in every town is not feasible. For this reason, I would like to share with you my support for a regional approach through Western New Mexico University. Our local university has partnered with various municipalities as well as the largest employer in our area – Freeport McMoRan – to pursue the construction of a regional vocational center that would provide the necessary training in the skill sets needed for our area. At the moment the university is seeking \$15 million in construction funding for the first phase of this project. Any support that you can lend toward this vital endeavor would be appreciated and would be a game changer for our region. Thank you for all you do for our great state.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chon Fierro  
Mayor- City of Bayard

\_\_\_\_\_  
Raul Villanueva  
Mayor Pro-tem

\_\_\_\_\_  
Eloy Medina  
City Councilor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Frances Gonzales  
City Councilor

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Jose Diaz  
City Councilor