

1. Our state has started to make unparalleled progress in the transition to 100% clean, renewable energy these last few years. What role do you think renewable energy should play in our state's economic future?

I believe solar and wind energy will play an important role in diversifying and strengthening our economy. Myriad opportunities are created when we embrace clean technology and sustainable energy. As we transition to renewable energy, large scale expansion of these new energy sources will benefit rural areas and local residents directly through training, jobs, and revenue reinvestment. While the decrease in environmental pollution and resultant improvement in public health with the added potential for lower energy costs will positively affect all New Mexicans. Our diversified economy will provide more stable revenue sources for funding education and other state programs that now suffer with the boom and bust economic cycle of oil and gas.

2. There have been discussions about implementing a tax on wind energy (and renewable energy more broadly). At these critical, early stages of clean energy development, such legislation would be extremely detrimental to New Mexicans living in rural communities and would prevent future renewable energy investment from bringing needed jobs and revenue to New Mexicans. If elected, will you oppose a wind tax that could jeopardize future rural jobs in the wind industry?

Yes, I oppose taxes that would hamper the introduction and early development stages of renewable energy. Economic incentives, not deterrents, should be used to nurture our new renewable energy industry, which promises to be more cost effective once established. Also, rural residents have borne disproportionately the brunt of the negative effects that fossil fuel extraction has had on our environment and health. They have earned the right to benefit from the investments in solar and wind energy that our energy transition will bring to their communities.

3. How should Industrial Revenue Bonds (IRB) be utilized as a tool to support new renewable energy projects in your district?

The IRBs should be used to attract manufacturers who make the components of wind turbines. Blades, tower sections, and drivetrains could be manufactured near the sites of these wind farms in the eastern portion of SD 19, rather than being imported from out-of-state manufacturers. This would decrease the cost of transportation, reduce downtime for maintenance and replacement, co-locate manufacturing and construction facilities, and bring jobs to the district.

4. Updates to our transmission system and energy infrastructure are critical in order to ensure that we have low-cost, reliable energy and to best support our growing population. If elected, what will you do to support upgrades to our transmission infrastructure?

I will support and vote for bills that modernize our grid, upgrade and extend our transmission lines, and increase the capacity of energy storage. I also will support bills that decentralize solar energy generation by scaling generation to the community

level, such as Community Solar. Local Choice Energy is another option that increases competition and gives communities more control over where they source their energy. These options enhance competition, give consumers and communities a choice in purchasing clean energy, and improve security and reliability.

5. There are two major transmission projects in development with the potential to transmit thousands of megawatts of renewable energy to our grid as well as bring hundreds of clean energy jobs to our communities and millions in revenue and investments. What are some ways we can bring more projects like Western Spirit and SunZia to New Mexico?

The key to attracting more projects like Western Spirit and Sun Zia is to provide economic incentives and a business climate conducive to doing business in NM, provide a skilled work force from which they can hire employees, and to ensure our energy transition proceeds on or ahead of schedule. This will establish NM as a renewable energy leader in fact and reputation that will encourage other renewable energy companies to develop projects here.

6. Will you sign our “Save Rural Jobs” pledge to promote more job creation and more renewable energy project revenue for our state? YES