



Dear Elected Official/Candidate,

ReNew Mexico is a coalition of statewide community groups, economic development professionals, business advocates, and residents dedicated to working toward the development of renewable energy and transmission projects for the betterment of New Mexico's economic and sustainable future.

ReNew Mexico will soon be launching our 2020 New Mexico Voter Guide to help voters make informed decisions about candidates in the upcoming elections, especially on the issues of climate change and the economic impact of renewable energy project development.

**If you wish to be considered for our 2020 ReNew Mexico Voter Guide, please complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it no later than Friday, October 23rd, but earlier if at all possible.** The best way to return your questionnaire is to fill out the attached document and email your completed responses to Arcelia Isais-Gastelum at [arcelia@renewmexico.org](mailto:arcelia@renewmexico.org).

Your completed questionnaire will be shared with the public via our social media pages, website, and newsletter.

Best,

Ben Kelahan  
Co-Founder  
ReNew Mexico

## **ReNew Mexico Candidate Questionnaire – 2020**

Elected Official/Candidate Name: Billie Helean District: 57

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 support the Energy Transition Act because it helps transition away from non-sustainable energy while still being fair to other partners in New Mexico. We need to continue to push for sustainable and renewable jobs in New Mexico, and I look forward to working with all groups to doing that.

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?

I would currently oppose a wind tax because we need to invest renewable energy. However, due to the potential and unpredictable economic downturn, I cannot completely commit to taking tax pledges right now.

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

I would like to invest in new community projects that have solar arrays set up for businesses across Rio Rancho.

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 expansion of reliable energy at the lowest possible cost to consumers, and the least possible amount of environmental harm.

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 ETA was formed to transition into a more sustainable economy, which I support. We will have to see what the future brings, but we should open areas for the transmission lines that would help grow our solar and wind production and exportation.

6. Will you sign our "Save Rural Jobs" pledge to promote more job creation and more renewable energy project revenue for our state? (SEE ATTACHED)

I support investments in sustainable jobs, especially in rural areas, however I cannot sign a pledge at this time due to an unpredictable budget for Fiscal Year '21.

THANK YOU!