



New Mexico State Legislature

STATE CAPITOL
Santa Fe

August 20, 2025

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor of New Mexico
Office of the Governor
State Capitol, Room 400
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Re: Otero County Processing Center Tour

Dear Governor Lujan Grisham,

At the July Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee, your staff indicated you are planning on calling a special session later this month or next month. Among the topics to be considered, Ms. Agajanian indicated you expect the Legislature to "ban the presence of immigration facilities in the State of New Mexico." Before we take any action with such far-reaching implications (for example, putting New Mexicans out of work and risking millions of federal funding), it is essential that we have a clear first-hand understanding of the conditions within these facilities and the operations that take place there; our federal detention centers are a critical component of public safety in the state.

We were disappointed when CCJ cancelled a long-promised tour of the Otero County Processing Center, citing concerns with the required background check of attendees that are standard for visits like this and limited communication from the federal government over the two days coordination efforts were underway. Fortunately, we were able to reach out to our federal partners at the Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) who immediately worked to facilitate arrangements for a tour of the facility to begin at 8 am, Monday, August 25th, prior to the start of CCJ.

We are writing to invite you to join us on the visit. Seeing the facility in person will provide invaluable context for discussions about policy and ensure decisions are made based on complete and accurate information. We believe your participation would be instrumental in ensuring that any decisions made are fully informed and in the best interests of the people of New Mexico. As is standard for federal facility access, a background check will be required prior to the tour. If you are able to attend, we will work with your staff to provide the necessary documentation and coordinate logistics.

If you are unable to join us for the tour, we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you later in the week to share our observations and discuss what we learned.

Sincerely,

Andrea Reeb
State Representative District 64

Crystal Brantley
State Senator District 35