



Santa Fe, January 13, 2020

Dear Friend of the Law Center:

I write to inform you, one of the New Mexico Environmental Law Center's valued partners, of a leadership change in our organization.

As you may be aware, I started the Law Center in the fall of 1987. I have built the Law Center from an organization staffed with one part-time volunteer attorney (me) to an office with a staff of eleven, including five full-time attorneys. It has been a great honor to lead the Law Center to become the organization it is today. Just a few short months ago, I received the Santa Fe Living Treasure award for that effort. In my speech accepting that award, I wanted people to know that for me, the Law Center has always been about our clients, the many communities on the frontlines of environmental harm who would otherwise be without legal representation.

During the past 32 years, I have represented Law Center clients, lobbied for communities and the environment in the State Legislature and other arenas, and raised funds to support all of the Law Center's work. I also have overseen all aspects of the Law Center's operations. This year, thanks to the great generosity of one of our foundation partners, we will be able to grow our capacity by adding another attorney and a community organizer. The projected growth in the Law Center's staff during 2020 has led to internal discussions about new staff roles and hiring practices. We are no longer a small organization, which means that there is an ever-increasing need for an Executive Director to oversee the management of a growing Law Center staff. Because this is an aspect of the Executive Director job that I do not enjoy and have not always done well, this is a logical place for me to open up space for a new Executive Director.

The Law Center Board of Directors and I therefore have decided that I will assume the role of Founding Director of the Law Center. As Founding Director, I will continue to advocate for the Law Center's clients and their communities as an attorney. I will also work closely with the Interim Executive Director to maintain the incredibly important ties the Law Center has with you.

Fortunately for the Law Center, Eric Jantz, who has worked as a Law Center staff attorney for almost twenty years, and who is intimately familiar with Law Center operations,

has agreed to step into the role of Interim Executive Director. The Board and I anticipate working closely with Eric initially to make this transition as smooth as possible, and to ensure that there is no interruption in the Law Center's important work.

The Board is guiding the process for identifying a new permanent Executive Director who will lead the Law Center into our next phase of growth by implementing the Law Center's comprehensive Transition Plan. In the meantime, we will continue to serve New Mexico's communities and environment faithfully and responsively as we have done for the past 32 years.

We are exceedingly grateful for your trust in our mission. We could not do this important work, nor grow strategically, without your support. Your support has meant so much to me because it has allowed the Law Center to give a voice in legal proceedings to so many communities. We would appreciate your continued support of our work with environmental justice communities who are on the front lines of the struggle against corporate polluters and misguided government policies. With your continued support, I foresee great things happening at the Law Center far into the future.

Please do not hesitate to contact Eric or me or Board member Susanne Hoffman-Dooley if you have questions about this transition. We will be glad to speak with you by telephone or to meet with you in person. You can reach Eric at (505) 989-9022, extension 120 or me at (505) 989-9022, extension 114, or Susanne at (505) 690-1948.

Thank you again for all of your support of the Law Center's work as we look forward to growing our staff and strengthening our efforts to protect New Mexico's communities and the air, land, and water on which they depend for many years to come.

Yours truly,



Douglas Meiklejohn
Founding Director