

Press Release

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Report Findings: *Workers' Perspectives on the Oil & Gas Industry and Energy Transition in the Permian Basin*

Santa Fe, NM- Today, Somos Un Pueblo Unido revealed its new study showing the perilous reality of working in New Mexico's oil and gas industry. The *Southeastern New Mexico & Oil and Gas Workforce Study* was conducted by the University of New Mexico's Center for Social Research. The study focuses on immigrant oil and gas workers in the Permian Basin. The findings cover current work conditions in the industry, as well as workers' perspectives on economic diversification and workforce development opportunities in emerging industries.

The study was designed to include focus groups conducted in Hobbs and Roswell that had a total of 28 participants as well as 50 professionally guided survey interviews conducted in person or over the phone in both English and Spanish. Some of the study's findings show:

- 46% of respondents reported having an accident on the job.
- 42% said this accident caused permanent damage.
- 26% of participants knew someone who died due to a workplace accident, and 60% knew someone who has had an accident on the job.
- 69% have been affected by the volatility of the oil & gas market.
- 78% of participants who had their hours cut during a dip didn't have access to unemployment benefits.
- Only 26% of workers have had safety/hazard training.
- 97% of respondents are somewhat/very concerned good paying jobs would leave Southeastern New Mexico and 82% are concerned they would have to move away if their jobs leave.
- 95% said they would like to continue living in Southeastern NM if they can find employment beyond the oil and gas industry.

"Our industry needs a just transition that focuses and invests in the workers that have generated hundreds of millions for the state. We need the opportunities and resources that can help us navigate through the oil and gas market's volatility. It is clear that the workers are the most eager to create alternative career paths and we have to make sure workers have a seat at the table where these decisions are being made." said **Marco Carranza**, an immigrant oil and gas worker from Hobbs since 2007.

"The state is busy fighting over the money generated by the oil and gas industry but chooses to ignore the true consequences of the communities in the frontlines. My family has dealt with the negative health repercussions of this industry and it's time that our leaders focus on what they can do to help us find a way to create a source of income that doesn't kill our workers." shared **Gladys Resendis**, Hobbs resident since 2004, wife of an oil and gas worker and mother of 3 children.

"I've worked in the oil and gas industry for more than 20 years and during all this time my employer has not given me any kind of protections." said Armando Espinoza, oil and gas worker and father of 3 from Hobbs. "Our jobs are incredibly dangerous and I've never been offered medical insurance. Forcing me to pay out of pocket when I've needed it."

“My husband was fired without warning from his job in the oil field, we spent months with an income and no options for him to start a new job. This lack of opportunities solidified that we needed to be part of the work to demand that our state create a more diverse and just job field in the permian basin. Our families have given this state our sweat and tears, it's time the state does its part.” said **Eduviges Hernandez** from Hobbs New Mexico.

[Link to study powerpoint.](#)

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