

Kathryn Laintz

Any New Mexican is familiar with the names Las Conchas and Calf Canyon/Hermit's peak in relation to forest fires. These fires collectively, have irreversibly decimated half a million acres in our state. Burns like these are scientifically classified as "Megafires", a term developed to classify unnaturally devastating fires, whose characteristics such as intensity, size, and uncontrollability, are a direct result of climate change. Warmer temperatures, drier seasons, and prolonged drought are directly linked to increased greenhouse gas emissions, decreased rainfall rates and snowpack, and the gradual die off of our forest plant species. Megafires in New Mexico have caused billions of dollars in damage. Destroyed homes, jobs, recreational areas, sacred spaces for our native peoples, and so much more. These fires changed our state forever, and have broken the hearts of countless New Mexicans. I personally fear summers in my state, as we can now never predict whether or not a catastrophic fire like these will happen again due to the now only worsening effects of climate change. No amount of proclaimed growth and financial opportunity promised by project jupiter is worth another NM Megafire. There is no conceivable way millions of tons of greenhouse gas emissions created by a data center will not put our entire state at risk. Lining the pockets of a tech billionaire and assisting Oracle and OpenAI in attempting to dominate the AI industry is not worth placing our entire state at risk. Please listen to the words of people who are writing these comments out of love for New Mexico. I love my beautiful state. I do not wish for a future where there is nothing here left to