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OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR
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MEDIA STATEMENT

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Auditor Keller Statement on Initiative to Determine Effectiveness of Tax Incentives

SANTA FE – Today, Auditor Keller remarked on House Bill 275, sponsored by Representative Deborah Armstrong (Bernalillo - District 17). The legislation calls for the Department of Tax and Revenue to create rules for reporting on the effectiveness of more than 400 tax credits, exemptions, and deductions in New Mexico. HB 275 is scheduled today in House Ways and Means Committee.

“In order to meaningfully reform our state’s Swiss cheese tax policy, we need to know which of the over \$1 billion dollars in annual tax incentives are working,” stated Keller. “Reporting adds a layer of transparency that allows us to determine the best return on investment for maximum economic development and job creation.”

As a state senator, Keller carried similar pieces of legislation that passed both chambers twice with bipartisan support but were vetoed by Governor Martinez. Governor Richardson also vetoed a similar initiative. Rep. Armstrong’s bill addresses concerns from the governors and strikes a balance between providing the information needed for informed public policymaking and the administrative burden of producing the report.

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