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**State Auditor Tim Keller Addresses Secretary Demesia Padilla Resignation**

SANTA FE, NM – Today, State Auditor Tim Keller addressed the resignation of New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD) Cabinet Secretary Demesia Padilla.

“There is no place for abuse of power from the highest ranking officials in the Administration. Our office’s preliminary investigation into Secretary Padilla raised a number of deeply troubling allegations of actions that put our state revenue and whistleblower employees in jeopardy. We refused to sweep it under the rug in the face of intense pressure due to the fact that she was a powerful official appointed by the Governor. With help from our partners in accountability, we hope New Mexicans will now have a tax department that is run fairly and competently.”

Last year, the Office of the State Auditor conducted a predicate investigation into allegations of wrongdoing by Cabinet Secretary Demesia Padilla. An anonymous complaint to OSA’s fraud hotline, including audiotapes, alleged that officials improperly intervened in tax matters of Padilla’s former client. The investigation was referred to the Attorney General’s Office and the Governor’s office.

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