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RE: HB 220 Renewable Energy Act to include natural gas combined cycle NMBC Supports

Mr. Chair and Committee Members:

The New Mexico Business Coalition (NMBC) represents hundreds of businesses and thousands of New Mexicans. Our focus is to make New Mexico a better place to live and work, where we have an abundance of good-paying jobs to provide for our families.

NMBC supports HB 220 Renewable Energy Act to include natural gas combined cycle. We have repeatedly seen that our New Mexico utility companies are struggling with state mandates on renewable energy and will be unable to produce the power necessary to meet demand over the summer months in 2022 and 2023. That is an issue that will endanger lives because it puts seniors and others with compromised health situations at risk of high temperatures. More concerning is the risk it will pose for hospitals and emergency health facilities that will be in jeopardy without adequate power. By adding the clean option of natural gas combined cycle generation, we can help alleviate some of those concerns.

We urge immediate and urgent action on this legislation so that New Mexico utility companies can begin pursuing this option as they continue to work towards the transition further required in the Renewable Energy Act.

NMBC supports HB 220 Renewable Energy Act to include natural gas combined cycle and urges you to say 'YES' to its passage.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments,

Carla J. Sonntag

CEO