



**NEW MEXICO  
BUSINESS COALITION**

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**RE: Support HJR 8 Declarations of Emergency, CA**

Mr./Madame Chair and Committee Members:

New Mexico Business Coalition (NMBC) advocates for private sector opportunities to diversify our economy, create job abundance, and help businesses and individuals pursue economic prosperity. NMBC partnerships include being the state affiliate for the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM).

NMBC strongly supports HJR 8 Declarations of Emergency, CA because it will provide much needed balance of powers between the executive and legislative branches. When the original legislation was created providing powers to the governor for emergencies such as this, it was following the 9-11 attacks. While that legislation was well-intentioned, it is now evident that there are critical deficiencies that must be corrected to allow for legislative oversight on extended use of executive emergency authority. This assures a better balance of power between the two branches of government and gives oversight back to the legislative branch.

HJR 8 specifies a governor's emergency declaration "...shall cease to be in effect after 90 days unless the governor calls the Legislature into special session prior to that deadline." If called into special session prior to the 90 day deadline, the Legislature may extend the emergency for up to ninety days only with an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the members of each chamber. This process may be repeated as necessary, but if the legislature does not take act to extend a declaration of a state of emergency the declaration shall expire on its existing expiration date. In any case, the governor may not declare another state of emergency for the same event.

HJR 8 would be submitted for a vote of the people of New Mexico in the next general election (November 2024) or any special election called for that purpose. This is the perfect solution to the issue that created unintended consequences – let the people voice their opinion on this.

For the reasons stated, NMBC supports HJR 8 Declarations of Emergency, CA and urges you to say 'YES' to its passage.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carla J. Sonntag".

Carla J. Sonntag  
President/CEO