RE: Oppose SB 4 Clear Horizons & Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Mr./Madame Chair and Committee Members:

The New Mexico Business Coalition (NMBC) represents hundreds of businesses and thousands of New Mexicans. We focus on making New Mexico a better place to live and work, with abundant good-paying jobs to provide for our families.

NMBC opposes SB 4 Clear Horizons & Greenhouse Gas Emissions. This is not a net zero bill—it is a zero emissions bill and a zero jobs bill. Passing this bill could significantly damage many industries, but its focus is primarily on the oil and gas production industries. By harming that industry, you are hurting every industry and its employees because every industry requires oil and gas. This bill will hinder our state's financial progress for future generations if passed.

Zero emissions are an unattainable requirement. If the state insists on pursuing that mandate, we will lose thousands of jobs. It is simply impossible not to have emissions while having ranching, automobiles, and oil and gas operations in the state. While that may be the intent of the legislation, it is not the desire of New Mexicans to limit food and automobile choices or have half of the state's revenue ended by bad policy. That only exacerbates inflation, cuts jobs, and forces more people to flee New Mexico.

If the legislature insists on lowering emissions, it must do so reasonably to allow carbon offsets and the economy to continue functioning. Otherwise, we will devastate the state's economy and cause the loss of numerous jobs. New Mexico showed a net outmigration in 2024, and we cannot afford to continue that trend.

Other states, like Colorado and California, have already experimented with this type of policy and were met with failure. Because the target was unattainable, those states were forced to return to the Legislature and develop new targets. Would we not benefit from learning from the failure of others?

For the reasons stated, NMBC opposes SB 4 Clear Horizons & Greenhouse Gas Emissions and urges you to say 'NO' to its passage.

Thank you for considering my comments,

Carla J. Sonntag. President & CEO