



RE: Support for SB 78 Nuclear Energy Recognized as Renewable Energy

Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the **New Mexico Business Coalition**, which represents hundreds of businesses and thousands of working families across our state, I write in strong support of **SB 78 Nuclear Energy Recognized as Renewable Energy**.

SB 78 represents a pragmatic step forward in aligning our state's energy policy with economic realities and business competitiveness. Recognizing nuclear energy as a zero-carbon resource offers **greater flexibility and reliability in meeting carbon reduction goals**, helping ensure that our energy systems remain resilient and cost-effective while reducing emissions.

From an economic standpoint, expanding the definition of renewable energy to include nuclear helps New Mexico **attract and retain high-paying jobs**, secure long-term investments, and stabilize energy costs for families and businesses. A broader zero-carbon portfolio can give manufacturers, data centers, research facilities, and other large employers confidence in our state's energy future, an important factor in site selection decisions and long-term capital commitments.

In addition, integrating nuclear energy into the renewable framework supports grid reliability and base-load capacity. As intermittent renewable sources like solar and wind continue to expand, nuclear provides **consistent, dispatchable power** that keeps businesses operating without costly outages or price volatility.

SB 78 also reinforces fiscal responsibility. By enabling utilities to diversify their clean-energy compliance strategies, this policy can help manage long-term rate pressures on ratepayers and reduce reliance on expensive, short-term solutions. Strategic inclusion of zero-carbon resources is a **market-based approach** that leverages private investment rather than relying solely on mandates or subsidies.

For these reasons — economic growth, energy reliability, and fiscal prudence — the New Mexico Business Coalition **supports SB 78** and respectfully urges a favorable committee report.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Carla J. Sonntag
President and CEO