



**NEW MEXICO  
BUSINESS COALITION**

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RE: Support HB 139 Legislative Oversight of Emergency Declarations

Mr./Madame 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 do business so that our people have jobs and can provide for their families.

NMBC strongly supports HB 139 Legislative Oversight of Emergency Declarations because it will provide the much needed balance of powers between the executive and legislative branches. When the original legislation was created following the 9-11 attacks, the legislature could not have known that a pandemic of this magnitude would impact the world. While that legislation was necessary and well-intentioned, it has become important to correct the deficiency created of not allowing for legislative oversight on extended use of the executive authority.

HB 139 provides that the governor may only declare one state of emergency or public health emergency for an event; declaring another state of emergency or public health emergency for the same event requires prior consent of the Legislature for the declaration to be effective. The cost of calling the legislature into special session is extremely low in comparison to the costs incurred by the extended health orders and would, therefore, be an excellent investment of state funds.

We urge you to say 'YES' to Support HB 139 Legislative Oversight of Emergency Declarations.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carla J. Sonntag".

Carla J. Sonntag  
President