



**NEW MEXICO  
BUSINESS COALITION**

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RE: Oppose HB 30 Water Lease and Use Effective Dates

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 do business so that New Mexicans have jobs and can provide for their families.

NMBC is opposed to HB 30 Water Lease and Use Effective Dates, because the current water Leasing Act has been in use and provides adequate controls. The Office of the State Engineer provides a preliminary review and approval which allows for the immediate use of water and that Office's decisions have never been overturned.

HB 30 eliminates the ability of ranchers and farmers to earn revenue when agriculture is not economic or feasible. Furthermore, farmers sometimes need the ability to lease additional water supplies in times of drought, which we are experiencing now.

New Mexico has a sound system for water usage and I urge you to leave that in place and say 'NO' to HB 30.

Thank you,

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

Carla J. Sonntag  
President