



**NEW MEXICO  
BUSINESS COALITION**

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RE: Oppose HB 51 Environmental Database Act

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 New Mexicans have jobs and can provide for their families.

NMBC respectfully opposes this legislation. While NMBC supports transparency of government and freely available data for citizens, the creation of an environmental database would be a wasted effort since all of the information from the bill is already available.

Crafting duplicate databases creates additional and unnecessary work for government officials and is a waste of taxpayer dollars which is a significant concern for a proposal as costly as this. Because there is no appropriation for this bill, if HB 51 is signed into law, it will be an unfunded mandate.

Moreover, having a singular repository of critical and sometimes sensitive information creates a substantial target for hacking by parties with ill intent. We're glad that pipeline locations have been removed, but the bill leaves other critical information at a consolidated risk. Compiling all of this data in a central location will serve only to ensure it becomes more vulnerable and less secure than it is when decentralized.

HB 51 would, at best, be an unnecessary and unfunded expansion of our government when we can ill afford it, and at worst a risk to our security. We urge you to vote 'NO' on HB 51 and against duplicative and unfunded legislation.

Thank you,

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

Carla J. Sonntag  
President