



**NEW MEXICO
BUSINESS COALITION**

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RE: Oppose SJR 3 Environmental Rights, CA

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 respectfully opposes this legislation. The proposed constitutional amendment language itself would be a gift to civil rights attorneys because of the ambiguous language that identifies that are claimed to be “inherent, inalienable and indefeasible.” Will the amendment define exactly what the right to a clean and healthy environment is? No. Does this constitutional amendment define what pure water, clean air, healthy ecosystems and a stable climate is? Again, the answer is no and that is the point of why we oppose this proposed amendment to the NM Constitution.

The last thing our state needs is to encourage expensive litigation against the state and the lack of clarity mentioned above on what the proposed new constitutional rights will be makes it easy for anyone to sue. Furthermore, with no way of knowing exactly how a healthy environment will be defined (for example), the proposed amendment would create even greater uncertainty for businesses than they are currently facing now with ever changing environmental laws.

We urge you to say ‘NO’ on SJR 3 and vote against this proposed constitutional amendment.

Thank you,

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

Carla J. Sonntag
President