



**NEW MEXICO
BUSINESS COALITION**

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RE: Oppose HB 37 Community Energy Efficiency Dev Block Grant

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 live and work, where we have an abundance of good-paying jobs to provide for our families.

NMBC respectfully opposes Oppose HB 37 Community Energy Efficiency Dev Block Grant. This is a significant government growth bill that will be costly to taxpayers as well as utility ratepayers.

Many of the studies required in the bill are either already being accomplished or they are not feasible. Utility companies are already providing information to the NM Public Regulatory Commission (PRC) regarding monthly cutoff notifications and disconnections. However, they are not able to collect personal income data, nor would they be advisable. This is information that should not be disclosed by ratepayers, and it is not necessary for the company to have this type of personal information.

HB 37 is yet another attempt to socialize rate making in New Mexico. Because our state is one of the poorest in the nation, this will only exacerbate the situation. This type of ratemaking would force the subsidization of the low-income rates onto every other ratepayer. It doesn't matter where you draw the line of subsidization, those just above the line will be hurt the most, being forced to pay a share of others' rates.

Inflation is at its highest point in 40 years, making it difficult for many to buy the necessary food and clothing they need. If we force them to subsidize the rates of others, it could be the final straw of driving them into poverty.

On behalf of hard-working New Mexicans and businesses, and for the reasons stated, NMBC opposes HB 37 Community Energy Efficiency Dev Block Grant and urges you to say 'NO' to its passage.

Thank you,

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

Carla J. Sonntag
President