

## RE: Oppose HB 322 Flat Corporate Income Tax Rate

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.

We strongly oppose HB 322 Flat Corporate Income Tax Rate. Whether a small or large business, New Mexico should be doing everything it can to increase opportunities for job creation in our state. We continually talk about diversifying our economy yet considering a corporate tax increase is exactly opposite of what prosperous states with robust economies are doing.

I encourage you to review <u>Rich States Poor States</u> and look specifically at what is helping to create wealth for all residents of states that are prospering. New Mexico is not doing well, and it is getting worse. In 2019, New Mexico was ranked 29<sup>th</sup> in the nation. The latest rating completed in 2022, shows New Mexico is ranked 38<sup>th</sup>. If policies like this are passed, New Mexico will continue its freefall into poverty, further hurting New Mexicans.

HB 322 Flat Corporate Income Tax Rate would be a significant deterrent to business expansion. It will hamper investments that lead to new jobs at a time when we most need them. This is a critical time in our state when we need to be working together to rebuild and overcome the devastation caused by an extended lockdown of our economy. It doesn't help for the legislature to continually look for ways to take more from those who risk everything to create jobs and contribute to the economy.

On behalf of hard-working New Mexicans and businesses, and for the reasons stated, NMBC opposes HB 322 Flat Corporate Income Tax Rate and urges you to say 'NO' to its passage.

Thank you,

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Carla J. Sonntag President and CEO