



**NEW MEXICO
BUSINESS COALITION**

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RE: Oppose HB 346 10-year Water Rights Forfeiture Period

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 respectfully oppose HB 346 10-year Water Rights Forfeiture Period because we feel this is unfair for landowners. We should be thankful the landowner is not using their water rights, but it is unfair and unjust to take them away because of that. The landowner may have plans to use them in the future and they have the right to sell or lease them, but these are rights they acquired with the land and the state has no right to take those away.

There are times when the land is owned by someone not living in the state and will have no knowledge of legislation being passed to violate his/her rights to enjoy their personal property. Imagine what that would be like, if they planned to retire here and when they arrive to build their forever home, find they have no water rights because the state legislature stripped them away.

This is absolutely wrong to do to business owners and we encourage you to vote 'NO' HB 346 10-year Water Rights Forfeiture Period.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carla J. Sonntag".

Carla J. Sonntag
President and CEO