



**NEW MEXICO
BUSINESS COALITION**

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RE: Oppose HB 426 Clean Fuels Standard Act

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

NMBC respectfully opposes HB 426 Clean Fuels Standard Act. All of our members and followers support a clean, vibrant environment accomplished in a responsible manner. Unfortunately, this bill does not accomplish that and, in fact, is punitive against New Mexicans.

New Mexico is, by far, one of the poorest U.S. states and this bill will create additional hardships on those who financially suffer the most. With requirements that are among the most stringent in the country, our people can ill-afford the costs that will result from this type of legislation. It is quite different to institute this type of stringent cap-and-trade policies in a state like California that has abundant wealth. It should be noted, however, that policies like this are driving up poverty and homelessness in California as well.

Estimates for the cost of this type of legislation are 30 to 50 cents per gallon. When you consider that gasoline has recently been over \$4/gallon in the last year nationwide, this would cripple the personal budgets of New Mexico's financially challenged families, greatly diminishing their ability to feed their families.

Fifteen years ago many in the U.S. felt compelled to push for the use of ethanol. This was meant to save our farmers by growing corn and the environment by reducing emissions. Now it has been confirmed that ethanol was a huge mistake. Not only does ethanol produce significant levels of air pollution and reduce fuel efficiency, it also is highly damaging to engines. In addition, it creates an additional hardship on food availability and pricing. Several things that New Mexicans cannot afford.

This piece of legislation works to appease climate activists, but it ignores the true environmental and socio-economic harm that it will cause.

On behalf of hard-working New Mexicans and businesses, and for the reasons stated, NMBC is strongly opposed to HB 426 Clean Fuels Standard Act and urges you to say 'NO' to its passage.

Thank you,

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

Carla J. Sonntag
President