



**NEW MEXICO  
BUSINESS COALITION**

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**RE: Support HJR 3 Termination of States of Emergency, CA**

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 strongly supports HJR 3 Termination of States of Emergency, CA because it will provide much needed balance of powers between the executive and legislative branches. When the original legislation was created providing powers to the governor for emergencies such as this, it was following the 9-11 attacks. While that legislation was well-intentioned, it is now evident that there are critical deficiencies that must be corrected to allow for legislative oversight on extended use of executive emergency authority. This assures a better balance of power between the two branches of government and gives oversight back to the legislative branch.

HJR 3 specifies a governor's emergency declaration will expire after 90 days unless the governor calls the Legislature into special session prior to that deadline. The Legislature may restrict, suspend, or terminate the declaration upon affirmative vote of three-fifths of the members of each chamber; if it does not, the governor may extend the declaration for up to 60 days from adjournment without further legislative action. This process may be repeated as necessary, but the governor may not declare another state of emergency for the same event.

HJR 3 would be submitted for a vote of the people of New Mexico in the next general election (November 2024) or any special election called for that purpose. This is the perfect solution to the issue that created unintended consequences – let the people voice their opinion on this.

For the reasons stated, NMBC supports HJR 3 Termination of States of Emergency, CA and urges you to say 'YES' to its passage.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments,

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

Carla J. Sonntag  
CEO