



**NEW MEXICO  
BUSINESS COALITION**

PO Box 95735  
Albuquerque, NM 87199  
(505) 836-4223 FAX (505) 836-4522  
[www.nmbizcoalition.org](http://www.nmbizcoalition.org)

**RE: Oppose SB 165 Local Choice Energy Act**

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 SB 165 Local Choice Energy Act. This bill would make our electricity service less reliable while increasing the cost of electricity. Soaring inflation and rising energy prices are taking a heavy toll on New Mexico families and this bill will only make that situation worse.

SB 165 would require customers to buy electricity from a pass-through entity instead of directly from an experienced electric utility company. The new pass-through entity would not own generation and would purchase electricity from a utility or other generation provider to sell to consumers. If no electricity was available for purchase, the pass-through entity would have none to sell to their consumers.

If this brokered electricity plan were implemented, customers would be forced to use it unless they opted out. And if they chose to stay in, they would simply be paying more for the same product to cover the costs of the pass-through entity purchasing and reselling the power. Market fluctuations would be detrimental to consumers who need certainty both in supply and costs.

During the hot New Mexico summer months, as market prices for electricity soar, those costs would be directly passed onto consumers by the pass-through entity, if they are able to find the electricity to resell. If there is no electricity available for purchase, the entity's customers could be left in the heat with no power.

We need affordable electricity for struggling New Mexico families and we need reliable electricity to power our economy into the future. We need real solutions to our problems, not schemes to create a new pass-through entity.

On behalf of hard-working New Mexicans and businesses, and for the reasons stated, NMBC opposes SB 165 Local Choice Energy 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 and CEO