



**NEW MEXICO
BUSINESS COALITION**

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RE: Support SB 199 Livestock Larceny Separate Offenses

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 supports SB 199 Livestock Larceny Separate Offenses. Currently, a single “episode of theft” constitutes one crime, even if multiple animals are stolen. Senate Bill 199 amends the crime of larceny to change the unit of prosecution for livestock theft (a third-degree felony, punishable by up to three years in prison), making every stolen animal a separate larceny offense.

Theft of livestock is a crime that specifically targets hard working New Mexico farmers and ranchers who rely on inventory they have invested heavily in for their livelihood. It is unimaginable that the same penalty applies to a criminal who has stolen 20 head of cattle that applies to a single theft.

On behalf of New Mexico’s ranchers and farmers, we urge you to say ‘YES’ to SB 199 Livestock Larceny Separate Offenses.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carla J. Sonntag", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Carla J. Sonntag
President and CEO