



**NEW MEXICO
BUSINESS COALITION**

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RE: Support SB 65 Emergency Powers Code Changes

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 SB 65 Emergency Powers Code Changes 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 evident that there are critical deficiencies that must be corrected to allow for legislative oversight on extended use of executive emergency authority.

SB 65 provides for automatic termination 45 days after issuance of a public health order issued pursuant to the Emergency Powers Code (EPC) and the Public Health Act (PHA) for any emergency that is used as the basis for an executive order throughout the state that closes any public place, limits or forbids gatherings of people. It also prohibits the renewal or amendment of such an order or the issuance of a new order for the same subject matter except by joint resolution of the Legislature. This is exactly the type of check and balance requirements between the executive and legislative branch that make our system of governance work like it should.

On behalf of hard-working New Mexicans and businesses, and for the reasons stated, NMBC supports SB 65 Emergency Powers Code Changes and urges you to say 'YES' to its passage.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments,

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

Carla J. Sonntag
CEO