



**NEW MEXICO
BUSINESS COALITION**

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RE: Oppose SJR 6 Environmental Rights, 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 respectfully opposes SJR 6 Environmental Rights, CA. While our members support a clean, vibrant environment, they want balance in how that is accomplished, and this bill does not do that.

We believe this amendment is anti-development and will limit job opportunities in New Mexico due to its broad and stringent regulation of all industries. It allows any permit to be challenged by any member of the public when that person believes their right to a clean and healthy environment has been infringed, whether there is actual harm or not. This increased uncertainty is detrimental to businesses and will limit opportunities for job creation.

Under this bill, individuals would be allowed to sue government agencies. This is expensive to the state and harmful to taxpayers. It would also impede the work of agencies involved in litigation, slowing inspection response. This will stop business operations while they await inspections, reducing revenue to the business and the state.

This amendment does not consider the environmental work already accomplished or the impact it will have on our state. New Mexico already has some of the most stringent environmental laws in place, including the strongest methane rule in the country.

Because this legislation is in Article 2 of the Constitution, it will trigger Civil Rights Act lawsuits, further endangering our New Mexico businesses. For these reasons, NMBC opposes SJR 6.

Thank you for consideration of my comments.

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

Carla J. Sonntag
President and CEO