

Rebecca Carsten

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the Heat Illness & Injury Prevention rule that is being proposed. I moved to New Mexico 24 years ago, from Phoenix, Arizona. There is a stark difference in the climate and the weather temperatures experienced. I can see a need for workers there, on days the temperature reaches 115 to above 120 degrees, but New Mexico does not experience that - the weather is nice here. Requiring a 45 minute break after 15 minutes of work when the heat index reaches 80 degrees is excessive government overreach.

I am currently working for a small contractor in New Mexico, under 20 employees. A ruling such as this would place a substantial burden on this company. The company I work for is very mindful of their employees, and most employees have been with this contractor for most of their careers. This employer takes every safety precaution to assure everyone can go home to their families safely at the end of each workday. Rulings such as this will cause a drastic reduction in productivity, and would prolong the completion of construction projects. It is far too costly a burden that may end up causing the closure of many businesses.

I believe more thought needs to go into structuring this proposal, with more input from different business sectors that will be impacted. Let the experts guide you, and the experts are the people that have spent their careers working in the field, not the suits that are writing this proposal.