

GROUP OF MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 30, 2025

NM Environmental Improvement Board
c/o NM Environment Department
1190 St. Francis Drive, Suite N4050
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Chair Suina and Bureau Chief Peck:

We, the undersigned New Mexico Representatives write to support the petition to the Environmental Improvement Board to adopt a proposed rule (EIB 25-11 [11.5.7.1) on occupational heat illness and injury prevention.

The need to protect employees from more frequent and more intense excess heat illnesses and injuries grows with our changing weather. In addition, the proposed rule can benefit employers by mitigating the productivity losses seen when workers are exposed to occupational heat stress.

We understand the EIB may consider potential changes to the proposed Rule. As Representatives we acknowledge the many concerns expressed to date in public comment to the EIB, and we urge the Board to seriously consider reasonable adjustments to the Rule.

Public comments opposed to the Rule include a great deal of unscientific claims as well as important information which may lead you to consider amending the Rule prior to adoption.

The NMED proposed Rule appears to incorporate best practices and science-based solutions to keep workers safe from exposure to heat at the workplace, including: coverage of both indoor and outdoor workers; calling for written Heat Injury and Illness Prevention Plans; providing for comprehensive worker training; implementing common sense preventive strategies including water, shade/cooling rooms, paid rest breaks, and acclimatization; and using trigger temperatures that are based on physiological science and years of experience from other states with heat standards. This standard will save lives, so we support the proposal in general while not endorsing every provision per se.

We, the undersigned New Mexico Representatives urge the Environmental Improvement Board to soon adopt, perhaps with reasonable modifications, the proposed Occupational Heat Illness and Injury Prevention rule currently under consideration.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and views.

Respectfully yours,

MEMBERS OF THE NEW MEXICO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Representative Marianna Anaya, District 18

Representative Janelle Anyanonu, District 19
Representative Eleanor Chavez, District 26
Representative Joanne Ferrary, District 37
Representative Yanira Gurrola, District 16
Representative Joseph Hernandez, District 4
Representative Pamelya Herndon, District 28
Representative Andrea Romero, District 46
Representative Sarah Silva, District 53