

Lawry Sager

During the 55+ years I've lived and worked in New Mexico I have spent most summers working outdoors; drilling rocks and blasting to make roads and home sites around the state for ten years, building and restoring adobe', frame and stone buildings for another ten, then performing biological surveys and research, in every county, for a quarter century, so I'm intimately familiar with climatic and weather conditions faced by everyone working out in the elements. We used to load up our trucks and leave for jobs in the predawn dark in order to escape the blistering heat for at least some of the day. Unlike politicians and chamber of commerce types who like to declare what is and is not from their air-conditioned offices, venturing out mostly to attend "photo ops" with gold painted shovels for a few minutes before retreating to cooler places, workers, many of them underpaid, are doing the heavy lifting to help make our state a better place to live--for everyone. A reminder: New Mexico ranks fourth in worker deaths in the U.S. Protecting workers health would seem to be a priority, but that isn't reflected in the reactionary stance of the moneyed few. We, as caring New Mexicans, must do everything possible to protect workers' health and well being during the increasingly hottest part of the year. Please just do it, and stop the whining.