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Historically, the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulates workplace health and safety in the US. NM has had a general regulatory policy for decades of adopting federal regulations and guidelines without state-specific rules. As a relatively small state, this policy has served NM well. This proposed regulation is an unnecessary departure from past practice. So far, only a few states have issued local "heat stress" rules that vary from federal guidelines.

Businesses in NM are aware of the risks inherent in working outdoors. These risks require careful work planning and execution by trained workers and supervisors. Industries such as agriculture, construction, energy, and others require outdoor work in NM's warm, dry western climate. There are many business incentives to work smartly and safely. Most businesses strive to provide safe work practices for their employees and face substantial legal liability in the case of an accident or illness due to poor work practices.

I'm not sure why NM feels the need to vary from federal regulations, or even from most workplace practices. These guidelines are updated and to industry standards and this will once again negatively affect NM. I urge you to work with trade organizations and employees to insure safe practices.