

Zoey Craft

Dear Environmental Improvement Board,

My name is Zoey Craft and I am a 23-year-old resident of Albuquerque, New Mexico writing to urge the Environment Department to adopt a strong heat protection rule for New Mexico workers.

Across the state, extreme heat is continuing to worsen amidst continued climate disruption – and New Mexico is setting new record temperatures year after year. As the climate crisis worsens, an increasing number of workers across our state and the country are being impacted by extreme heat on the job – including at least 250,000 workers across New Mexico who are at high risk for heat-related illnesses.

A strong occupational heat standard would help to protect the community members who are the backbone of New Mexico's economy and future – I am writing in support of the Environment Department's Occupational Health and Safety Standard, and would like to express my support for recommendations that would help to make the rule even stronger: establishing greater clarity on emergency procedures, requiring employers to include references to existing New Mexico non-retaliation laws as part of employer HIIPP plans and worker training, urging employers to seek input and involvement of non-managerial staff in drafting HIPP plans, and specifying that training must be given in person with the opportunity to ask questions and employers should be required to re-deliver the training in the case of a serious heat-related illness or injury onsite, an OSHA citation, a fatality, or work processes changing significantly.

Workers across New Mexico shouldn't be forced to choose between their health and their livelihoods. I urge you to adopt a strong heat standard that would establish New Mexico's leadership on this issue by helping to ensure that a growing number of workers across the state don't continue to suffer from dangerously hot, life-threatening conditions on the job.

Thank you,

Zoey Craft