

Angie Smith

Greetings to the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board, my name is Angie Smith, and I live in Portales. Here, in our community, farming and ranching are two of the biggest industries for us. So much of Roosevelt's economy revolves around these vital economic pillars. And just like so many other communities, we have a great deal of construction going on, too. While this is not an exhaustive list of all the businesses and employers your proposed rule could affect, it does include the biggest ones in our area.

I believe it is a very good idea to make sure employers educate their employees well about the risks involved and how to spot if someone is getting overheated. I read the Fact Sheet you put out. It has some helpful information; however, I also noticed you left out the requirement of employees only having to work 15 minutes and resting 45 minutes every hour?! You also left out that the employers would be expected to pay their employees for the full hour! That makes no sense. It almost seems as if you all are more interested in destroying businesses rather than helping keep employees healthy.

Your Fact Sheet left out many variables in the overall statistics you listed. How many of those who had heat injuries were already sick when they went in that day? How many of the employees were encouraged to take a break and drink some water, but those employees chose to work anyway? Too many important variables were left out, and therefore, your Fact Sheet is not reliable.

If you want to mount a campaign to educate employers and employees on how to avoid these heat injuries, I support you. However, you need not act like the Nanny of New Mexico and force people to do things. That is a dictatorship, not a free society.

Please do not pass the part of the rule that requires employees to only work 15 minutes per hour. That could cause great delays in various industries. Worse, it could cause many businesses to have to close. We don't need any more businesses to close in New Mexico.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Angie Smith