

**HIDALGO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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May 20, 2025

New Mexico Environment Department  
Occupational Health and Safety Bureau  
1190 St. Francis Drive, Suite N4050  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

RE: Proposed Heat Illness and Injury Prevention Rule

The Hidalgo Soil & Water Conservation District is writing regarding the “Proposed Heat Illness and Injury Prevention Rule” by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), Occupational Health and Safety Bureau (OHSB).

As the board of Hidalgo Soil & Water Conservation District we serve Hidalgo, and parts of Grant County in New Mexico. It is our mission to protect, restore, enhance and promote the proper use of soil, water and other natural resources. This includes employers and employees in the agriculture community.

The proposed Heat Illness and Injury Prevention Rule is oppressive and unattainable in most cases. It lacks sufficient data to justify its stringent requirements and fails to properly address the economic impacts that it will have on the employers, workers, and the state of New Mexico as a whole. This proposed rule is a classic example of government overreach, it's impossible to apply, is burdensome on both producers/employers and workers/employees, and impossible to implement and enforce without proper funding.

The Hidalgo Soil & Water Conservation District Board respectfully requests that NMED withdraw the Proposed Heat Illness and Injury Prevention Rule.

Sincerely,

Hollis Vaughn, Chair