

Mary Featherstone

I am writing to express my opposition to EIB 25-11 (R) - Proposed New Regulation. This regulation would negatively impact small businesses in New Mexico, which lack the resources to hire a full-time team to assess heat indexes, monitor employees, and manage heat-related records for nine months each year. Additionally, we cannot accommodate the proposed reduction of work hours by $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ during the summer months. Starting the monitoring process at 80°F effectively turns this into a year-round paperwork requirement for no benefit. My family owns several small businesses in New Mexico and we have outdoor employees that are acclimated to the temperatures in NM and are given water/beverage breaks as each employee deems necessary. We have never experienced a heat-related illness. We take pride in our safe work environment and value our employees. The OSHA draft remains a draft because it is both unpopular and unworkable for these very reasons. Please table this proposal.