

Sofia Jenkins-Nieto

My name is Sofia Jenkins-Nieto, I am 24 years old and I am a resident of Albuquerque, New Mexico. I'm writing in support of the Environment Department's Occupational Health & Safety Standard. This safety standard is extremely important for our workers in New Mexico to stay safe and healthy. We need regulations to keep people safe, especially as the climate crisis worsens and temperatures rise. Cities are especially vulnerable to the urban island heat effect, and Albuquerque regularly hits 100 degrees and higher in the hot months. Folks who work outside, as well as inside in hot environments such as kitchens, deserve protections for their health. I think that this rule can be strengthened, and I want the EIB to really consider that almost 250,000 NM workers are at risk of heat-related illness and injuries at work. That number is astronomical, we need to protect our people. It is the board's responsibility to take this rule seriously, and to take people's stories seriously.

I also urge you to make this rule stronger-outline specific emergency procedures for if and when heat-related illness and injury happens. This will save lives. There also needs to be more outlined training requirements- if workers and managers are not prepared then the rule will mean nothing. I appreciate NMED for proposing this rule-it will help hundreds of thousands of people in New Mexico stay safe and cool as the summers get hotter. Thank you for your time.