

North 80 Construction

I've worked construction in New Mexico long enough to know when a rule is written by people who've never stepped foot on a job site. This proposed heat illness rule is a shining example of clueless policymaking—detached from reality and completely out of touch with how work actually gets done in our state.

Let's break this down. You want crews to take paid breaks every 20 minutes once it gets warm? Not even dangerously hot—just warm. You want job sites to provide shade and cooling stations and track hydration like we're babysitting grown adults. And you want small businesses to shoulder the cost of all this? You've lost the plot.

This rule assumes that contractors are too dumb or heartless to protect their own teams, when in fact, the responsible ones—like us—have been doing it for years. The real joke is that the bad actors you claim to be targeting won't follow these rules anyway. So who ends up paying for this idiocy? The builders. The tradesmen. The people actually keeping the economy moving while you sit in air-conditioned conference rooms making up fantasy regulations.

This rule isn't about safety—it's about control. And worse, it's lazy. It's a copy-paste job from humid states with completely different climates, completely different industries, and completely different needs. It's the legislative version of checking the box and patting yourself on the back while everyone else deals with the fallout.

If you actually want to help workers, stop treating them like fragile children. New Mexico needs strong communities, not government-made weakness. We need rules that make sense, not policies built on bad data, worse assumptions, and zero real-world input.

Scrap the rule. Start over. And maybe this time, talk to someone who's held a shovel in July.