



RE: Support for Project Jupiter – Economic Development and Industry Growth

Members of the Board,

On behalf of the Mechanical Contractors Association of New Mexico and the Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning Contractors of New Mexico, we write in strong support of Project Jupiter's air quality permit applications.

Our member contractors design, install, and maintain the mechanical, HVAC, piping, and sheet metal systems that power New Mexico's hospitals, advanced manufacturing facilities, refineries, data infrastructure, and commercial buildings. We understand that major industrial investments do more than create construction activity, they shape regional economies for decades.

Project Jupiter represents one of the most significant economic development opportunities in southern New Mexico in recent years. The anticipated 4,000 construction jobs during the build phase and 1,500 permanent, well-paying jobs once operational will generate substantial economic ripple effects across Doña Ana County and beyond. Projects of this scale drive demand not only for skilled construction services, but also for local suppliers, engineering firms, equipment distributors, transportation providers, and small businesses that support large capital projects.

From a contractor perspective, long-term capital investment is what allows New Mexico firms to grow responsibly and sustainably. When projects like Jupiter move forward, our locally owned contractors invest in new equipment, expand payrolls, strengthen safety programs, increase bonding capacity, and deepen partnerships with workforce training programs. This builds durable in-state capacity rather than relying on out-of-state firms — keeping tax revenue, expertise, and reinvestment rooted here at home.

We are particularly encouraged by the project's "Doña Ana First" hiring strategy and the \$1.5 million Education Fund to support workforce training and partnerships with local schools and colleges. Strong economic development requires a reliable talent pipeline.

When capital investment is paired with intentional workforce development, New Mexico can produce the next generation of skilled trades professionals while offering meaningful, high-wage career opportunities that allow families to stay and thrive in our state.

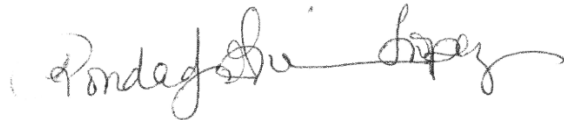
Equally important is the broader signal this project sends. Advanced industrial facilities depend on highly technical mechanical systems, energy efficiency, system redundancy, and precision installation. New Mexico's mechanical and sheet metal contractors have the expertise and project management capacity to deliver this work safely, efficiently, and in compliance with regulatory standards. Supporting projects like Jupiter reinforces New Mexico's reputation as a state capable of hosting complex, advanced industries that demand high performance and reliability.

Economic competitiveness is not built overnight. It requires consistent regulatory processes, infrastructure readiness, workforce investment, and the confidence that major projects can move forward responsibly. Project Jupiter aligns with that trajectory by strengthening the tax base, expanding the skilled workforce, and positioning southern New Mexico as a hub for advanced industrial growth.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge approval of Project Jupiter's air quality permit applications.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronda Gilliland-Lopez", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ronda Gilliland-Lopez

Executive Director

Mechanical Contractors Association of New Mexico

Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning Contractors of New Mexico