



**BETTER TOGETHER**  
NEW MEXICO

P.O. Box 95735,  
Albuquerque, NM 87199  
(505) 836-4223

RE: Support **HB 50 Penalties for Vehicle Thefts**

Mr./Madame Chair and Committee Members:

Better Together New Mexico (BTNM) brings together hundreds of advocacy groups and thousands of New Mexicans statewide. Our mission is to unite New Mexicans through grassroots initiatives and work to positively shape the decisions that affect our lives, families, and communities.

BTNM supports HB 50 Penalties for Vehicle Thefts because it is long past the time that the state takes more aggressive action against crimes like vehicle theft.

People in New Mexico are tired of the out-of-control crime in this state. We are weary every time we drive somewhere if our vehicle will be there when we return. Some of the worst places in the city have mobile photography units, but they do not replace stolen vehicles, nor do they often help deter crime from being committed.

New Mexico needs stricter penalties and enforcement to send the criminals a message that we will no longer tolerate this. We do not need or want government excuses that will increase prosecution and fill our jails and prisons.

Our jails and prisons are so empty that several may be closed. That is because of New Mexico's lax system of protecting criminals over the victims of crime.

If we enact stricter penalties and enforcement, criminals will soon learn we are no longer willing to tolerate crime. They can become a productive part of society, get incarcerated, or move to another state with more straightforward targets. That is why they are here. New Mexico is an easy target, and we need to make that stop.

For the reasons stated, BTNM supports HB 50 Penalties for Vehicle Thefts and urges you to say 'YES' to its passage.

Thank you for considering my comments,

**Carla J. Sonntag,**  
President & CEO