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RE: Support **HB 328 Repeal Clean Fuel Standards**

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 328 Repeal Clean Fuel Standards for the following reasons:

Reduction in Business Costs: The repeal of clean fuel standards would alleviate the financial burden placed on businesses in terms of compliance costs, potentially lowering the price of fuel production and distribution. This could enhance business profitability, stimulate economic activity, and keep prices competitive for consumers.

Stabilization of Fuel Markets: By removing the regulatory constraints of the current standards, HB 328 would likely stabilize the fuel supply chain, reducing the risk of supply disruptions or reliance on less economically viable compliant fuels. This could lead to a more predictable and resilient energy market.

Preservation of Jobs and Economic Growth: Without the stringent and costly requirements of clean fuel standards, businesses, especially in the transportation, manufacturing and energy sectors might be more inclined to maintain or expand operations in New Mexico, thus preserving or creating jobs and supporting economic stability.

Decrease in Regulatory Overhead: HB 328 would reduce the regulatory and compliance overhead currently faced by businesses, allowing them to redirect resources towards more productive endeavors like innovation, expansion, or operational efficiency. This simplification of the regulatory environment could make New Mexico more attractive for new business ventures.

Encouragement of Market-Driven Environmental Solutions: Repealing these standards would allow the market to naturally drive towards cleaner technologies through consumer demand, technological advancements, and competitive pressures, rather than through government mandates. This market-led approach could lead to more innovative, cost-effective, and widely accepted environmental solutions.

Better Together New Mexico strongly supports HB 328 and urge you to pass this bill to support business growth, job retention, and economic vitality in our state.

Thank you for considering my comments,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carla J. Sonntag', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Carla J. Sonntag
President and CEO