

Senator:

My name is Frank Pagurko, and I write to you on behalf of the Rio Grande Foundation, an economic policy think tank based in Albuquerque. We work to promote the interests of the people of New Mexico through free market policy.

In the interest of everyone who lives and works in New Mexico, I strongly urge you to **vote NO** on SB 11, the Clean Fuel Standard Act. This bill is a blank check to regulators with no legislative oversight or consumer cost protections. The Environment Department would be directed and empowered to make arbitrary rules based on vague instructions. Despite that uncertainty, we can now the kind of trouble SB 11 would cause in New Mexico. California has already implemented a similar low carbon fuel standard, and they have added between \$0.19 and \$0.24 to the cost of every gallon of gasoline sold in the state with almost no impact on the environment, even after ten years. The costs to consumers will only increase over time. Under SB 11, the money collected will also remain with the New Mexico Environment Department, rather than actually benefiting New Mexicans. Instead, this legislation is essentially an indirect means of creating a gas tax, an inherently regressive and incredibly harmful form of taxation.

Added fuel costs are the last thing the New Mexico needs in this time of economic downturn. Please vote no on this harmful and unproductive bill. Thank you.



Frank Pagurko III