

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 New Mexico residents, I strongly urge you to **vote NO** on SB 132, the “Photovoltaic Systems in New Homes” bill. In a time when New Mexico’s economy is struggling and affordable housing is already an issue in many areas, our state should not mandate expensive solar systems in every new home construction. As the fiscal impact statement for this bill points out, a new 1,600 square foot home would incur additional costs of over \$30,000 for a solar power system if a battery is included. Photovoltaic systems also require maintenance and eventual replacement, saddling New Mexico homeowners with costs they did not ask for or choose.

The legislature has already implemented the expensive Energy Transition Act which will raise costs for ratepayers across the state. SB 132 is a new, even more direct, cost imposed on New Mexico residents. Higher home costs will lead to fewer homeowners, an outcome with obvious negative impacts. If our state’s economy is to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic, Santa Fe should not implement additional housing costs on New Mexicans. Please vote no on SB 132. Thank you.



Frank Pagurko III