

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 citizens, I strongly urge you to **vote YES** on SB 74, the “Public Health Order Termination and Renewal” bill. The COVID-19 pandemic has strained all aspects of our state’s government. It has brought into focus ways in which we can improve the functioning of state authority. Our republic was not designed to be ruled by a single person, whomever that person might be. This bill returns power and responsibility to the legislature, with whom it belongs. SB 74 does not take away the governor’s ability to respond to emergencies when they arise, but rather ensures that the duty is passed on to the deliberative body in an appropriate time frame. Given the myriad ways in which the internet has increased our ability to communicate, two weeks is more than enough time to call the legislature into session to determine whether a given public health order warrants renewal. The current legislative session demonstrates that meeting via the internet is a feasible option, depending on the conditions of the health emergency.

Please help return New Mexico to a more democratic form of government and vote yes on SB 74. Thank you.



Frank Pagurko III