

Representative:

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 workers, I strongly urge you to **vote NO** on HB 297, the Workforce and Economic Prosperity Act. Despite its name, this bill would be incredibly damaging to the New Mexico economy and would hinder our recovery from the Covid-19 economic downturn. Jobs and opportunities are created by private businesses, many of them small businesses, which would suffer under the rules and regulations handed down by the council created by HB 297. The clean energy sector will grow and develop when it is economically feasible. Government intervention and direction will make that more difficult by increasing the complexity and costs associated with developing that industry. The legislature should allow our state economy to function without the added burden of an unelected council of bureaucrats creating arbitrary rules.

Creating a new bureaucracy out of whole cloth for the purpose of directing the economy is not the way to encourage a vibrant, diverse economy. Please do not harm economic opportunities and well-being and vote no on HB 297. Thank you very much.



Frank Pagurko III