



January 29, 2019

New Mexico State Legislature
490 Old Santa Fe Trail
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Members of the New Mexico State Legislature:

Re: Senate Bill 136 and House Bill 291, Efficient Use of Energy Act Amendments

The Alliance is a diverse coalition that includes representatives from the business, environmental, labor, and contractor communities, including over 30 member companies in New Mexico alone. Our coalition is committed to enhancing manufacturing competitiveness and reducing emissions through industrial energy efficiency, particularly through the use of clean and efficient power generating systems such as combined heat and power (CHP) and waste heat to power (WHP).

Our members strongly support utility energy efficiency programs because these programs grow the New Mexico economy, reduce grid demand, and boost a diverse business sector. Businesses that invest in efficiency can lower their energy costs and improve their bottom lines. These activities create opportunities for our members in the design, installation, construction, and maintenance of projects.

In the years since the *Efficient Use of Energy Act* was first adopted — energy efficiency programs have delivered more than \$400 million in economic benefits to all New Mexicans.¹ These investments have also been cost effective. This means that each dollar invested has more than paid for itself. By keeping energy use down, energy efficiency investments have helped industries remain competitive, meet their corporate sustainability goals, and create good-paying local jobs. In fact, recent data from the U.S. Department of Energy found that energy efficiency accounts for over 13,500 jobs in the state.²

New Mexico should increase its investment in energy efficiency to stay competitive regionally and abroad. Recent innovations in building controls, lighting, HVAC improvements, industrial processes, and behavioral energy efficiency represent huge untapped opportunities to continue driving down energy costs. These improvements would increase competitiveness and free up resources for businesses to create more jobs and invest in the state.

For all of these reasons, we support Senate Bill 136 and House Bill 291 — bills that would extend the *Efficient Use of Energy Act* through 2030, alleviate investment restrictions on the state's most cost-effective energy resource, and ensure steps are taken to align the utilities financial interests with eliminating energy waste.

¹ Tammy Fiebelkorn, Southwest Energy Efficiency Project, Albuquerque Journal, Oct. 2018, Celebrating energy efficiency (<https://www.abqjournal.com/1230501/celebrating-energy-efficiency.html>).

² Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2) and E4TheFuture, Dec. 2016, Energy Efficiency Jobs in America (https://e4thefuture.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/EnergyEfficiencyJobsInAmerica_FINAL.pdf).



We are grateful for your leadership on this important issue and welcome further discussion on how we can support your efforts to improve and advance energy efficiency delivery in New Mexico.

Sincerely,

David Gardiner
Executive Director
Alliance for Industrial Efficiency