



March 22, 2021

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor of New Mexico
New Mexico State Capitol
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Lujan Grisham,

I write today on behalf of the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) – the world’s largest biotechnology trade group – to urge you to put Senate Bill 11 – the New Mexico Clean Fuel Standard Act – on the agenda for the March 31 special session of the New Mexico Legislature.

SB 11 won the support of a broad array of interests including four cabinet secretaries, oil companies, and numerous business and environmental groups. Moreover, the bill passed three Senate committees, the full Senate with ease, and a House committee. It almost certainly would have comfortably cleared the full House if it had come up for a vote.

As noted in the March 1 press release your office issued with Economic Development Cabinet Secretary Alicia J. Keyes, both the measure to legalize recreational marijuana and SB 11 “will grow the economy, create jobs, and provide for a new layer of economic security for New Mexico families and businesses.... The initiative would make New Mexico a center for clean fuel technology innovation, create jobs in this sector, and stimulate investment in areas such as carbon capture, hydrogen and electric vehicles, and biofuels.” More specifically, SB 11 will help diversify and contemporize two of the state’s seminal industries – agriculture and oil.

In fact, few business sectors would benefit more from SB 11 than agriculture and forestry, which would serve as major suppliers for New Mexico’s low carbon fuels market, selling the large quantities of biomass they produce (for example, cow manure from dairy farms in Clovis, pecan shells from orchards in Doña Ana County). As noted in the March 11 press release heralding SB 11 that your office issued with the cabinet secretaries from the Agriculture, Economic Development, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources, and Environmental Departments the bill “will open the doors for New Mexico farmers, ranchers and dairy producers to be able to supply the biomass to produce clean energy fuels.”

I appreciate your leadership in pushing SB 11 during the 2021 regular session of the Legislature and respectfully ask that you add it to the agenda for the special session.

Sincerely,

Gene Harrington
Director, State Government Affairs, Food & Agriculture

cc: Senator Mimi Stewart, President Pro Tempore
Representative Nathan Small

