

2026 POLICY AGENDA

NEW MEXICO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2026 LEGISLATIVE POLICY GUIDE



The New Mexico Chamber of Commerce (NMCC) transforms policy into progress through strategic advocacy rooted in collaboration between business, government, and communities.

PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY AGENDA

This agenda explains the needs and priorities of Chamber members and outlines how the Chamber will evaluate and discuss legislation during the 2026 session. The aim is to support policies that help businesses grow and create jobs, encourage innovation, and expand economic opportunity for people and communities across New Mexico. It is designed as a straightforward guide that helps leaders quickly understand what matters most in the year ahead.

OUR BROAD PRIORITIES

Four core priorities guide the Chamber's advocacy and reflect the statewide conditions needed for a healthy economy:

- A stable business environment that supports investment and growth
- A skilled workforce with education and training aligned to industry needs
- Innovation and economic diversification
- Strong infrastructure to support growth

KEY POLICY AREAS

Seven policy committees explore the major issues tied to these priorities: agriculture and food processing; economic development and technology; education and workforce development; energy and extractives; environment, water and land; healthcare; and tax and fiscal policy. These areas represent where the Chamber works closely with members, partners, and policymakers to support progress.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Chamber Members: Refer to these priorities when engaging with legislators or offering input on proposed legislation

Government affairs professionals: Use as a foundation for advocacy and policy analysis

Policymakers: Use to understand business perspectives on issues shaping New Mexico's economic future

Community partners: Review these priorities to identify shared goals and opportunities for collaboration

WHY THIS MATTERS

Clear priorities help focus policy conversations and encourage productive dialogue throughout the legislative session.

FOUR PILLARS SHAPING NEW MEXICO'S ECONOMIC FUTURE

Our policy positions are anchored in four strategic pillars designed to drive sustainable economic growth, improve quality of life, and position New Mexico as a leader in the competitive global economy.



1. Cultivating a Stable and Competitive Business Environment

We advocate for predictable, supportive policies that give businesses the confidence to invest, expand, and innovate in New Mexico. By championing legislation that promotes regulatory stability, fair taxation, and equal opportunity, we help create conditions where businesses of all sizes can thrive and contribute to a stronger state economy.



2. Building a Skilled and Thriving Workforce

We support policies that expand access to talent development, education alignment, and comprehensive training programs. Through strategic workforce development initiatives, skills-based training programs, and inclusive hiring practices, we ensure businesses have access to qualified talent while providing individuals with pathways to meaningful careers and economic mobility. To achieve these goals, it is essential that our K-12 education system provides world-class educational opportunities for all students in New Mexico.



3. Driving Innovation and Economic Diversification

We champion emerging industries and technology driven growth strategies that strengthen and diversify New Mexico's economic base. By supporting forward thinking policies, entrepreneurship incentives, and strategic sector investments, we help build a more resilient economy that creates opportunities across traditional and emerging industries.



4. Investing in Modern Infrastructure to Power Growth

We promote strategic infrastructure investments that connect communities, support business operations, and enable long term economic growth. By advocating for improvements in transportation networks, broadband connectivity, energy systems, and water infrastructure, we help establish the foundation for sustained competitiveness and enhanced quality of life.

POLICY FOCUS AREAS DRIVING OUR LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS

The Chamber's 2026 legislative priorities are organized around seven key focus areas that directly impact business success and New Mexico's economic future. Each of these Focus Areas are developed and overseen by expert members of the NMCC who provide additional detailed information for staff to assist in the rapid response during Legislative sessions to evolving issues.



Agriculture and Food Processing Promote policies that ensure reliable access to land and water resources while supporting infrastructure development, environmental stewardship, and regulatory clarity that enables agricultural business growth and food security.



Economic Development and Technology Advance legislation that promotes innovation ecosystems, supports industry diversification, attracts investment capital, and creates sustainable job growth across traditional and emerging technology sectors.



Education and Workforce Development Support policies that align educational outcomes with business workforce needs, close critical skills gaps, and build an inclusive, work ready talent pipeline that serves both rural and urban communities.



Energy and Extractive Industries Shape comprehensive energy policy that supports both traditional and renewable energy sectors, ensures long term energy security, and develops integrated strategies that meet New Mexico's evolving energy needs while supporting economic stability.



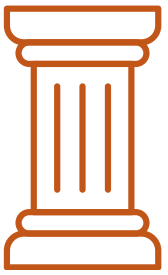
Environment, Water, and Land Use Address critical business issues including environmental regulations, water rights allocation, and strategic resource planning to ensure balanced policy outcomes that protect natural resources while enabling responsible economic development.



Healthcare Advance healthcare policies that improve affordability and accessibility, expand healthcare workforce development and pipelines, and strengthen the overall healthcare infrastructure that are critical for business operations and community well-being.



Taxation and Fiscal Promote tax and fiscal frameworks that encourage business investment, support job creation, enhance competitiveness with neighboring states, and provide the predictability necessary for long term business planning and growth.



PILLAR 1: CULTIVATING A STABLE AND COMPETITIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT



AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING

- ☐ **Protect Agriculture Through Stability and Clear Rules:** Farmers and ranchers need predictable policies to keep investing in their operations and supporting rural communities. Preserving the Right to Farm Act shields farmers and ranchers from nuisance lawsuits that discourage investment; while protecting how agricultural land is valued for taxes ensures family farms remain viable for the long term.
- ☐ **Consistent Rules Matter:** Statewide seed standards help prevent a fragmented system of local regulations. Avoiding unnecessary food labeling mandates keeps costs manageable for producers and consumers alike. Food safety rules should align with FDA standards and provide businesses with reasonable timelines to comply, protecting consumers while avoiding unfair burdens on industry.
- ☐ **Balance Environmental Goals with Economic Realities:** Environmental protection and economic growth go hand in hand. Policies like greenhouse gas taxes on livestock would disproportionately harm New Mexico producers without offering real environmental benefits. A science driven approach is needed, one that supports sustainability while ensuring farms and ranches remain competitive and able to provide for communities.
- ☐ **Strengthen Food and Resource Security:** New Mexico's food supply and natural resources must be managed responsibly to protect both businesses and families. Ensuring imported processed foods meet U.S. standards levels the playing field for local producers and keeps consumers safe. Strong predator control and wild horse management under the Livestock Board protects livestock and land. Preventing unauthorized surveillance of agricultural operations without due process or consent upholds fairness and property rights. These measures safeguard rural communities and ensure long term food security.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

- ☐ **Compete for Jobs and Innovation:** We need to compete by meeting or exceeding neighboring states on the tools that attract and grow employers. That means a competitive budget for the Economic Development Department (EDD) and long-term funding for LEDA, JTIP, and the Rapid Workforce Development Fund to land projects and upskill talent. Capital access should expand through a stronger Angel Investment Tax Credit, capital gains reinvestment incentives, and continued Catalyst Fund support. We also must maintain a fair, innovation friendly tax climate for manufacturing and R&D.
- ☐ **Build the Backbone:** Infrastructure, Broadband, and Reliable Utilities: Growth relies on infrastructure. Enabling legislation for public-private partnerships (P3s) should accelerate broadband, energy, and other infrastructure projects, while improved capital outlay planning and efficient project funding keep investment steady from year to year. A competitive yet, flexible regulatory environment and rate structure across all utilities will lower risk, support large scale deployments, and allow employers to expand statewide.
- ☐ **Make Government Simple, Predictable, and Accountable:** Companies need concise, consistent rules and confidence that public dollars deliver results. Procurement reform should drive uniform, transparent practices across state and local government so projects move on time. State incentives should be tied to performance-based measures to ensure efficient use of funds and measurable outcomes, creating a predictable environment that rewards results and speeds economic development. Support thoughtful AI and data privacy policy that protects consumers and businesses without hampering innovation and competitiveness.



EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- ☐ **Align Accountability, Transparency, and Continuous Improvement:** Student outcomes should drive decision making across early childhood, K12, and higher education. That means school level transparency in how dollars are spent, a long-term statewide assessment system that tracks growth and supports comparative analysis, and the use of best practice strategic planning frameworks (e.g., the Baldrige Excellence Framework) to embed continuous quality improvement. Together, these tools create clear, comparable information that guides improvement, directs resources to what works, and builds public trust.
- ☐ **Fund Equitably and Connect Education to Workforce:** New Mexico needs fair, effective funding across public, charter, and community schools including practical solutions that help charter schools secure facilities, so every student learns in a high-quality environment. Launching RISE NM, the state's longitudinal data system, will align education and workforce data to inform career pathways, target training investments, and show which programs deliver results for students and employers. This combination of equitable funding and linked data builds a talent pipeline that meets industry demand and holds the system accountable for the outcomes.



ENERGY AND EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

- ☐ **Ensure Regulatory Certainty and Efficient Permitting:** New Mexico needs clear, consistent, and predictable rules so projects can move from plan to production. That means streamlining permits, aligning with federal standards, and avoiding duplicative or overly burdensome state or local requirements that add cost without improving outcomes. It also means preserving regulatory certainty for utilities by opposing community choice aggregation that undermines long term planning and protecting responsible access to public lands for development that drives jobs and revenue.
- ☐ **Advance Responsible Production and Infrastructure Resilience:** Energy and mineral development should proceed under modern, safe practices that protect workers, communities, and the environment. New Mexico should support responsible hydraulic fracturing and mineral extraction while investing in resilience across the energy system by strengthening cybersecurity, hardening infrastructure against extreme weather, and ensuring reliable, affordable service. Together, these steps sustain production, safeguard critical assets, and keep the state competitive.



ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND LAND USE

- ☐ **Streamline Environmental Regulation for Business Investment:** Support regulatory and administrative reform that promotes timely permitting, clear rules, and consistent enforcement procedures to reduce delays and encourage compliance and business investment. Support placing limits on administrative fines and ensuring penalties are remitted to the general fund. Support ensuring substantial business and technical representation on environmental policymaking boards and hearing panels to improve regulatory outcomes.
- ☐ **Balance Land Use with Economic Development and Environmental Goals:** Advocate for land use policies that balance economic development with environmental goals, ensuring local control and minimizing unintended burdens on landowners and businesses. Support legal frameworks that enable the productive reuse of remediated properties through clear and enforceable land use controls. Promote the development and implementation of clear, scientifically grounded environmental rules that support investment and job creation across the state. Support ongoing forest restoration and wildfire prevention efforts as a strategy to safeguard communities, protect watersheds, and reduce long term environmental and economic risks.



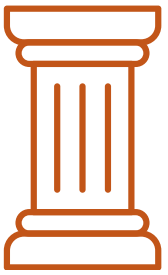
HEALTHCARE

- ☐ **Improve Access and System Stability:** New Mexico needs sustainable, evidence based policies that keep care accessible in every community. We must strengthen delivery in both rural and urban areas and leverage federal and state funding to stabilize providers and medical facilities. Finally, we should foster innovative, affordable coverage options for individuals, employers, and public programs without destabilizing the commercial insurance market.
- ☐ **Deliver High Value Care Through Innovation and Fair Regulation:** Care should be patient centered, and culturally responsive. Expand case management models, address social determinants of health, and ensure access to safe, sterilized medical devices and supplies that improves outcomes without adding burdensome mandates and regulations that drive cost. Fair, effective regulation should enhance safety and efficiency while reducing fraud, waste, and abuse.
- ☐ **Plan for Federal Funding Changes:** In light of recent changes that will impact the future of healthcare government programs, including reduced Medicaid funding and lost participation in Medicaid and on the exchange, the state should work with stakeholders and policy makers to create a strategic plan to address these changes and minimize impacts to patients and providers to the most reasonable extent possible. Continuous Medicaid review will ensure cost efficiency and sustainability, while pursuing grants for healthcare services, workforce training, and IT improvements will expand capacity.



TAX AND FISCAL

- ☐ **Modernize Tax Code for Competitiveness and Growth:** New Mexico should strategically reform tax code built with input from employers and sector leaders. Priorities include eliminating Gross Receipts Tax (GRT), pyramiding by removing tax on business-to-business services (e.g., HR, legal, accounting, IT, engineering), and keeping corporate income tax rates competitive with neighboring states. An annual competitiveness scorecard should benchmark New Mexico against peer states to guide continuous improvement.
- ☐ **Make Tax Administration Efficient, Predictable, and Fair:** Taxpayers need clear, timely guidance and consistent processes. The state should fund and train Taxation & Revenue Department staff to improve assistance, education, and appropriate enforcement; expand the Taxpayer Bill of Rights; and ensure assessments are not tied to employee performance. Policy should favor early, understandable paths to resolve audits before litigation, while ensuring out of state vendors properly remit GRT so in state businesses compete on a level playing field.
- ☐ **Align and Clarify Property and Multijurisdictional Tax Rules:** Clarity reduces disputes and investment risk. New Mexico should provide clear definitions of functional and economic obsolescence in property taxation and adopt tax lightening protections that stabilize nonresidential valuations. The state should also align state and tribal tax systems where possible to promote equitable business opportunities and reduce duplicative or conflicting obligations creating certainty for employers planning long term investments.



PILLAR 2: BUILDING A SKILLED, INCLUSIVE, AND THRIVING WORKFORCE



AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING

- ☐ **Modernize Seasonal Labor Pathways:** Encourage the federal government to create agriculture specific guest worker options beyond H2A with streamlined processing, portability among vetted employers.
- ☐ **Safer Workplaces & Faster Return to Work:** Protect the integrity of Workers' Comp with timely benefits and evidence-based return to work policies. Pair with practical safety and reintegration measures that reduce litigation and insurance costs while improving outcomes for workers and employers.
- ☐ **Grow Homegrown Agricultural Talent:** Provide stable, multi-year funding for NMSU's College of ACES and agricultural science centers to deliver applied training, extension services, and industry partnerships that build a skilled rural workforce.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

- ☐ **Align Training with Industry Demand and Scale Apprenticeships:** Target workforce dollars to programs that lead to industry recognized credentials and jobs. Create an Apprenticeship Job Creation Tax Credit and expand IT focused apprenticeships so residents can earn while they learn. Align job training funds with employer needs and strengthen job matching programs that place workers into high demand roles quickly.
- ☐ **Boost Access, Completion, and Entrepreneurship:** Make postsecondary pathways easier to reach by utilizing the state's 529 education savings plan and stacking credentials that employers value. Add entrepreneurship education in K12 and higher ed, so more people can create and fill jobs.
- ☐ **Attract, Retain, and Disperse Talent Statewide:** Launch targeted workforce attraction strategies, alumni outreach and retiree marketing to bring experienced talent back to New Mexico. Pair this with relocation and retention supports for solo workers, remote employees, and entrepreneurs, with a special focus on rural communities, so new and existing talent choose to live, work, and build businesses across the entire state.



EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- ☐ **Align Pathways with Industry and Local Economies:** Expand Career Technical Education (CTE) programs that match regional employer demand and local priorities. Increase funding for higher education programs tied to high demand careers, especially STEM, skilled trades, and healthcare. Align dual enrollment to college and career pathways. Support alternative routes into postsecondary learning, including apprenticeships, boot camps, and high- quality online programs, and provide scholarships and credential incentives for trade, vocational, and technical careers so students can earn marketable skills faster.



- ☐ **Equip Learners with Guidance and Work Ready Skills:** Strengthen career counseling and use interest/aptitude tools (e.g., YouScience) so students and adult learners can choose pathways that fit their talents and local job markets. Expand access to adult high school diploma options and high school equivalency testing. Embed soft skills and employability training that employers expect on day one. Support proven external career programs such as Be Pro, Be Proud to connect learners with in demand occupations and hands on exploration.
- ☐ **Build and Retain a High-Quality Education Workforce:** Invest in the early childhood workforce with targeted recruitment, retention incentives, and professional development to stabilize classrooms that drive positive long-term outcomes. Develop teacher and principal pipelines based on measurable performance, ensuring schools can attract, grow, and keep excellent educators and leaders across New Mexico.



ENERGY AND EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

- ☐ **Build a New Mexico Energy Workforce Pipeline:** Expand practical education and training, from high school programs to apprenticeships and college, to prepare residents for energy infrastructure, construction, and operations/management careers. Pair this with targeted incentives to recruit, train, and retain the skilled technicians.



ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND LAND USE

- ☐ **Partner to Secure New Mexico's Water and Jobs Through Public Private Partnerships:** Use public private partnerships and business–university–national lab collaboration to deliver water projects efficiently, and ensure employers are at the planning table so infrastructure investments create local jobs and meet industry needs.
- ☐ **Align Water Planning with Workforce and Economic Development:** Ensure business community representation in regional and state water planning to align infrastructure and water resource management with workforce and industry needs.



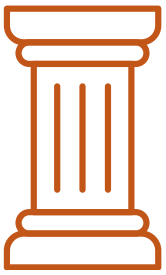
HEALTHCARE

- ☐ **Build and Keep New Mexico's Healthcare Workforce:** Train, recruit, and retain providers by supporting policies that will result in expanded access to care. This includes providing both incentives and removing obstacles such as: expanding education pipelines, joining interstate licensure compacts, and streamlining Turquoise Care credentialing and licensure processes. Strengthen rural care with targeted incentives and loan repayment. Additionally, it is critical to stabilize the practice environment through balanced medical malpractice reforms that reduce litigation and insurance costs. Finally, the state should look to fully fund the Medicaid program and sustain targeted Medicaid rate increases to help attract and retain providers across the care spectrum and across the state.
- ☐ **Make Behavioral Health a Core Workforce Strategy:** Support the state's adoption of a comprehensive statewide behavioral health plan built with broad stakeholder input that expands access through both telehealth and in-person services and supports the stability of care teams. Promote cost effective responses to substance use disorders, including safe opioid prescribing protocols and evidence-based treatment options, to improve health outcomes, and strengthen workforce participation across the state.



TAX AND FISCAL

- ☐ **Smart, Predictable, and Inclusive Job Creation Incentive:** Use targeted, performance-based tax incentives to attract, grow, and retain jobs backed by stable, predictable tax obligations that give employers confidence to invest. Ensure these tools are accessible in rural and underserved communities so job growth is statewide and inclusive.



PILLAR 3: DRIVING INNOVATION AND ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION



AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING

- ☐ **Promote Sustainable Farming, Agri Tourism, and Biosecurity:** New Mexico should incentivize voluntary and sustainable agricultural practices through state supported programs that improve land stewardship. The state should also support the development and use of best available agricultural technologies and biosecurity practices to combat emerging threats such as highly pathogenic avian influenza. In addition, promoting agricultural tourism as an industry growth driver, while encouraging reasonable liability standards, will help expand rural economic opportunities.
- ☐ **Drive Agribusiness Investment and Global Trade Growth:** Encouraging investments in agribusiness and value chain diversification through targeted tax credits, infrastructure funding, and regulatory clarity will create new growth opportunities. Leveraging international trade infrastructure by supporting export assistance programs and trade offices will further connect New Mexico producers to global markets.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

- ☐ **Grow Semiconductor, High Tech, and Emerging Industries:** New Mexico should secure federal funding to expand the semiconductor ecosystem. The state should also continue to support the investments in emerging industries necessary for economic diversification, while championing research and commercialization of advanced technologies including but not limited to AI, aerospace, autonomous vehicles, bioscience, advanced manufacturing, quantum computing, hydrogen, and small modular reactors.
- ☐ **Strengthen Research, Entrepreneurship, and Rural Business Growth:** Supporting SBIR matching grants, EPSCoR, and university–lab–industry tech transfer programs will help move innovation from research to market. Promoting MainStreet, Arts & Cultural Districts, and business incubator investment will grow rural and urban entrepreneurship. In addition, supporting funding for the New Mexico Partnership will assist rural business recruitment and retention.
- ☐ **Expand Tourism and Global Market Opportunities:** This includes promoting cultural and heritage tourism that highlights New Mexico’s unique history and traditions; outdoor recreation and adventure tourism that draws visitors to our mountains, deserts, and rivers; film and media tourism that leverages our growing reputation as a production hub; and business and convention tourism that brings professionals to New Mexico’s cities. By elevating these diverse tourism sectors, we can increase visitor spending, create jobs, and support small businesses across both urban and rural communities. Supporting export assistance programs and strategic trade offices will further expand global market access for New Mexico businesses, ensuring our state is positioned as both a vibrant destination and a competitive player in international markets.



EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- ☐ **Expand Entrepreneurial Training and University Research:** Supporting entrepreneurial training initiatives at K-12 through college will prepare students to contribute to New Mexico's economy. Expansion of university research programs aligned with state economic development priorities will ensure academic strengths meet industry needs.
- ☐ **Promote Innovative School Models and Modern Learning Standards:** Promotion of innovative school models, including early college high schools, community schools, and advanced placement expansion, will help strengthen student outcomes. Supporting the Next Generation Science Standards and integrating personal finance education will give students the technical and practical skills needed for success.
- ☐ **Build Flexible Pathways and Industry Partnerships:** Investment in flexible school designs and alternative education pathways will prevent school dropouts and meet future workforce needs. Encouraging innovative partnerships between education institutions, workforce boards, and private industry will ensure learning is closely aligned with real world job opportunities.



ENERGY AND EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

- ☐ **Expand Clean Energy Innovation:** New Mexico should support the development and commercialization of clean energy resources. Promotion of nuclear energy development including uranium mining, small modular reactors, and research partnerships will further diversify and strengthen the energy sector.
- ☐ **Drive Research Partnerships and Responsible Resource Use:** Encouragement and support of research, development, and market driven commercialization through partnerships with New Mexico's national laboratories and universities will expand innovation. Supporting the recycling and reuse of treated produced water will promote conservation and new opportunities for innovation.
- ☐ **Strengthen Energy Markets and Reducing Emissions:** Promotion of market-based approaches to continued emission reductions will allow progress without unnecessary mandates. Participation in Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs) will enhance grid reliability and expand interstate energy market opportunities.



ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND LAND USE

- ☐ **Expand Water Recycling, Reuse, and Efficiency Through Innovation:** Support policies that promote water reuse, especially in energy and extractive industries, through legal reform and infrastructure investment. Development of a statewide water banking system will promote conservation, protect water rights, and facilitate flexible and sustainable water markets. Interbasin transfers, underground storage, and importation feasibility studies should also be advanced to increase long term water availability.
- ☐ **Advanced Innovation in Water and Environmental Technology:** Advocate for funding to support technological innovation in water conservation, PFAS remediation, brackish water treatment, and hydrogen generation using produced water to address pressing challenges. Completion and modernization of hydrologic and data systems including hydrographic surveys, the WATERS database, and monitoring tools for well and irrigation efficiency will strengthen decision making.
- ☐ **Improve Air Quality and Promote Low Emission Energy:** Support targeted relief measures in ozone non-attainment areas, combined with collaborative approaches, to improve air quality while protecting regional economic development. Incentivize use in and by New Mexicans of natural gas that is responsibly produced in New Mexico to further promote clean energy use.



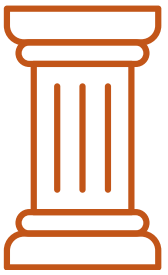
HEALTHCARE

- ☐ **Encourage Healthcare Investment and Growth:** Foster investment and growth in the healthcare sector for both legacy and emerging providers, systems, and modes of care delivery. The state should also refrain from unnecessary governmental oversight of healthcare partnerships or delivery models so as not to restrict delivery of care or chill future investments in New Mexico.
- ☐ **Advanced Technology and Innovation in Care Delivery:** Support innovations in technology that reduce administrative burdens such as the appropriate use of AI which will allow providers to deliver care more efficiently and effectively.



TAX AND FISCAL

- ☐ **Expand Tax Incentives for Growth and Emerging Industries:** New Mexico should extend and expand the Angel Investment Tax Credit and incentivize reshoring by waiving gross receipts and compensating taxes on infrastructure investments. The state should also support tax incentives that foster entrepreneurial activity and emerging industries, while promoting targeted tax incentives for renewable energy and cost competitive alternative energy development.
- ☐ **Improve TRD Coordination and Technical Review of Incentives:** The Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD) should involve subject matter experts at the beginning of developing legislation that grants incentives or special treatment to specific industries or activities. TRD and applicable agencies should also coordinate with other agency experts to ensure timely technical review of incentive applications.
- ☐ **Evaluate Tax Expenditures for Public Benefit:** New Mexico should evaluate tax expenditures regularly based on ROI and achievement of specific goals such as greater employment, and other measurable public benefits.



PILLAR 4: INVESTING IN MODERN INFRASTRUCTURE TO POWER GROWTH



AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING

- ☐ **Reinstate Fencing and Funding Agricultural Services:** New Mexico should reinstate fencing requirements along state highways to protect livestock and reduce public safety risks. New Mexico should also secure funding for the New Mexico Department of Agriculture and the Livestock Board to support essential services including regulation, education, testing, and marketing.
- ☐ **Address PFAS, Water Access, and Conservation:** The state should address PFAS groundwater contamination by coordinating with federal agencies to protect water quality for agriculture and dairy operators. It should also maintain water access and incentivize conservation through voluntary programs that provide technical assistance and funding to agricultural producers.
- ☐ **Reduce Wildfire Risk through Forest Management:** New Mexico should reduce wildfire risk by supporting responsible forest management practices that enhance water security, protect watersheds, maintain livestock access to rangeland, and safeguard energy infrastructure from disruption. Proactive thinning, prescribed burns, and restoration efforts not only lower the risk of catastrophic fires but also preserve the natural resources and critical systems that communities and industries depend on.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

- ☐ **Expand Broadband Access and Modernizing Utilities:** New Mexico should prioritize broadband deployment with regulatory streamlining and expanded state and federal funding. Broadband infrastructure must also be advanced in rural areas using new technologies such as low orbit satellites and fixed wireless. To expand reach and reliability, the state should enable public private broadband partnerships and utility modernization, while ensuring telecommunications rules promote competition and reduce deployment barriers.
- ☐ **Strengthen Transportation Infrastructure for Economic Growth:** The state should promote reliable transportation investment including roads, rail, and rural infrastructure as a foundation for economic development. Transportation policy should also be aligned with federal funding opportunities like the IIJA to maximize resources and long-term impact.
- ☐ **Unlock Investment in Sites, Facilities, and Utilities:** Economic growth will require shovel ready site development, facility construction, and industrial real estate planning. New Mexico should also support TIDDs, IRBs, and long-term utility rate reforms to unlock and sustain investment in critical infrastructure.



EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- ☐ **Create Permanent and Flexible Workforce Training Funds:** New Mexico should support the development of a permanent workforce training fund aligned with recognized industry credentials. The state should also continue funding for programs including the Job Training Incentive Program (JTIP), STEP Up training fund, and the Rapid Workforce Development Fund (RWDF).



- ☐ **Leverage Federal and State Investments to Strengthen Workforce and Higher Education:** The state should leverage federal and state investments to strengthen workforce and higher education infrastructure, ensuring that institutions and programs can meet the needs of New Mexico's economy.
- ☐ **Expand Digital Learning and Community College Hubs:** Coordinated investment in digital learning infrastructure and expanded access to broadband for education and workforce programs will help reach more students and workers. Increased support for community colleges as critical hubs for small business development and workforce training will expand opportunities in both urban and rural areas.



ENERGY AND EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

- ☐ **Expand and Modernize Energy Infrastructure:** New Mexico should support the expansion and modernization of energy infrastructure, including generation facilities, transmission lines, pipelines, and storage systems. Facilitation of interstate and intrastate transmission expansion is also essential to connect New Mexico's energy to broader markets.
- ☐ **Invest in Affordable, Reliable, and Resilient Energy Systems:** The state should invest in infrastructure projects that promote energy affordability, reliability, and carbon reduction. Support for infrastructure resilience investments will further protect communities and business assets.
- ☐ **Streamline Permitting for Emerging Energy Technologies:** Advocacy for streamlined infrastructure permitting will help advance emerging energy technologies. By reducing duplicative regulations and delays, New Mexico can accelerate the deployment of next-generation solutions such as hydrogen, advanced nuclear, grid-scale storage, and renewable energy integration. Clearer and more efficient permitting processes not only lower costs for developers but also provide certainty for investors, helping the state attract new projects and jobs. Streamlining infrastructure approval ensures that New Mexico remains competitive in the clean energy transition while maintaining strong environmental and community safeguards.



ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND LAND USE

- ☐ **Modernize Water Infrastructure and Planning with Business Involvement:** Support investments in new infrastructure to improve water conveyance, storage, and treatment, including the use of innovative engineering and low impact development technologies. Support ongoing updates to the New Mexico State and Regional Water Plans with strong business involvement to ensure infrastructure planning reflects future economic needs.
- ☐ **Strengthen Forest, Watershed, and Water Management Capacity:** Support recurring, sustainable funding mechanisms for forest and watershed restoration to reduce wildfire risk and improve long term water supply resilience. Advocate for adequate staffing and funding of the Office of the State Engineer (OSE) and Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) to ensure timely processing of water applications, data modernization, and legal defense of New Mexico's water interests.
- ☐ **Expand Broadband for Environmental Management:** Advocate for expanded broadband infrastructure to support environmental monitoring, remote sensing for water management, and access to data for stakeholders in rural areas.



HEALTHCARE

- ☐ **Support Healthcare Infrastructure and Technology Access:** New Mexico should promote healthcare infrastructure investments through continued funding of the Rural Health Care Delivery Fund, improved IT capabilities, testing, treatment, and laboratory services especially in underserved areas. Strategic expansion of healthcare facilities and technology-based improvements such as telehealth will further increase accessibility and efficiency of care for New Mexicans.
- ☐ **Maximize Federal Funding and Strengthen Medicaid:** The state should maximize the impact of federal funding by fully funding Medicaid, identifying sustainable state matching funds, and leveraging all available federal resources. Support for supplemental payment programs and existing approved provider taxes will help sustain healthcare delivery networks. Continuous Medicaid review will ensure cost efficiency and sustainability, while pursuing grants for healthcare services, workforce training, and IT improvements will expand capacity.



TAX AND FISCAL

- ☐ **Evaluate Tax Expenditures for Public Benefit:** New Mexico should evaluate tax expenditures regularly based on return on investment, achievement of specific goals such as greater employment, and other measurable public benefits.
- ☐ **Encourage Stability and Long-Term Fiscal Planning:** New Mexico should recognize that stability in tax policy is significantly influenced by multiyear expectations of expenditure levels. Encouraging stable, multi-year fiscal planning for infrastructure investment that is aligned with revenue projections will provide predictability for both government and business to invest with confidence.
- ☐ **Reform Capital Outlay and Support Long Term Infrastructure Investment:** The state should encourage reform of the current capital outlay systems and establish financial mechanisms and procedures that support long term infrastructure investments.