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Submitted By: Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce

WQCC 25-34 (R) the Matter of Proposed Amendments to 20.6.8 NMAC - Treated

Produced Water

My name is Ernie C'deBaca, President and CEO of the Hispano Chamber of Commerce based in Albuquerque. Our mission focuses on economic development and economic opportunities for businesses throughout New Mexico. Our membership includes businesses from all over New Mexico including small mom and pops to Fortune 500 companies. The message from the business community is clear. We need sound water resource management and policy to protect our freshwater resources and to support economic diversification.

The Hispano Chamber supports the adoption of the WATR Alliance's proposed rule for the re-use of treated produced water for industrial purposes. Specifically, regarding the August 12th hearing, we ask that the Water Quality Control Commission deny the motions by a few eNGO's to dismiss or delay the WATR Alliance's petition for rulemaking. By taking this action, the WQCC allows overwhelming scientific evidence in support of produced water re-use to be part of the WATR Alliance's petition for rulemaking.

All of the most promising economic opportunities of the future require water – data centers, artificial intelligence, quantum computing, advanced manufacturing, renewable energy (think about the concrete required for wind turbines!) require water. Right now, we are sending the bulk of that water to Texas without compensation or credit against the Rio Grande and Pecos River compacts.

Please help New Mexico preserve freshwater by adopting the WATR Alliance's proposed rule for the re-use of treated produced water.