



June 12, 2020

Honorable Peter Wirth
Senate Majority Leader
New Mexico Senate
490 Old Santa Fe Trail
Santa Fe, NM 87501
sent via email: peter.wirth@nmlegis.gov

Honorable Brian Egolf
Speaker of the House
New Mexico House of Representatives
490 Old Santa Fe Trail
Santa Fe, NM 87501
sent via email: brian.egolf@nmlegis.gov

RE: New Mexico Technology Council Policy Principles

Dear Majority Leader Wirth and Speaker Egolf:

The public health emergency caused by the novel coronavirus has dramatically impacted the economic landscape of New Mexico. As state and federal governments responded to mitigate the spread of the virus, businesses across the state were forced to conduct business in a very different way. Workplaces were transformed, with remote work the new standard, and other businesses shifted their service delivery models to minimize-in-person contact and reduce the risk of transmission.

While many businesses were able to successfully shift their models, the public health emergency also highlighted many policy and regulatory areas in the state that fall short of meeting the needs of both the current and future economy. As you grapple with how to address the shifting needs of the economy, the New Mexico Technology Council (NMTTC), a member-driven technology-focused association, asks you to consider adopting the following policy principles as you navigate this extraordinary time:

Advance Regulatory Policies that Spur Innovation and Entrepreneurship

As businesses seek to adapt to the disruption caused by public health emergency, the need for a regulatory environment that promotes innovation is critical. Removing regulatory obstacles, creating flexibility within current regulatory structures, and reestablishing regulatory predictability, will allow more New Mexico businesses to effectively adjust to the modern workplace and meet shifting consumer behaviors.

Maintain New Mexico's Economic Development Infrastructure

Continued investment in the New Mexico Economic Development Department and its programs, including LEDA and JTIP, as well as the New Mexico Partnership. These programs are essential to ensuring New Mexico communities have the necessary tools to both market and incentivize business retention and expansion, and job creation as the economy moves forward.



Address Availability and Delivery of Broadband Communications

The importance of encouraging universal availability of high-speed Internet services and finding ways to get more New Mexicans online has gained new meaning in a COVID-19 world, which has required businesses, including the healthcare sector, to transform their workplaces, service delivery, and enablement of staff.

Statewide, educational institutions have also had to shift to online learning models. Policies that promote broadband competition and expand access to high-speed Internet by encouraging private sector investment and removing barriers to deployment of high-speed Internet networks are imperative to ensure equitable economic, learning, and telehealth opportunities for all New Mexicans, both urban and rural, including low income households.

Ensure Government is Transparent and Accountable

As the tremendous response to the COVID-19 global pandemic has demonstrated in New Mexico—***We are all in this together.*** The technology industry in New Mexico is ready and willing to support efforts to ensure all New Mexicans have equitable access to view and participate in legislative and regulatory processes, especially as we all work to move New Mexico's economy forward.

Thank you for your consideration of these policy principles and thank you for your dedication and service to the people of the State of New Mexico. If you would like to explore these items further, or if the NMTC can be of any assistance, I can be reached at (505) 263-7302 or deborah@nmtechcouncil.org.

Sincerely,

Deborah L. Breitfeld, CEcD
Executive Director

Cc:

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