



Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham  
State Capitol Building

December 22, 2020

Dear Governor Lujan Grisham,

As the state is developing pathways to diversify New Mexico's economy, we would like to commend your leadership for considering a number of innovative approaches. We would also like to bring to your attention the role of nonprofits and cooperatives in our economy. These sectors have had significant positive impact over the years and have the potential to increase resilience and economic activity throughout the state. Attached please find background information about nonprofits and cooperatives for your consideration.

Nonprofits and cooperatives respond to community needs, foster equity, and create opportunities for New Mexicans. With a relatively small amount of investment, nonprofits and cooperatives could contribute much more to New Mexico's economy.

Nonprofits account for \$3.22 billion of economic activity (UNM BBER 2019) and contribute to the quality of life for our communities.

Cooperatives by their nature are an equitable way to build community wealth. Notable local examples are Kit Carson Electric Cooperative and La Montanita Food Coop.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to discuss how nonprofits and cooperatives can remove barriers to economic opportunity for communities and individuals.

Thank you for your ongoing leadership during these challenging times.

Handwritten signature of Tsiporah Nephesh in black ink.

Tsiporah Nephesh  
New Mexico Thrives

Handwritten signature of Sandra McCardell in blue ink.

Sandra McCardell  
Cooperative Catalyst NM

Handwritten signature of Fred Mondragon in black ink.

Fred Mondragon  
Cooperative Catalyst NM

cc:

Speaker Egolf, Senate Majority Leader Wirth, Senator Stewart  
Secretary Alicia Keyes  
Representatives Rubio and Ely