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December 21, 2023

Construction Industries Division,  
Regulation and Licensing Department  
5500 San Antonio Drive NE, Suite F  
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Construction Industries Commission:

New Mexico Voices for Children is in favor of the new 2021 Energy Conservation Codes and urges you to adopt them. These codes will improve the energy efficiency of new buildings, and will make it easier for homeowners, renters, and users of commercial parking lots to charge their electric vehicles.

Making buildings more energy efficient helps families save money on their heating and cooling costs, which allows them to spend more money on their families' other needs. Better energy codes also require better ventilation and filtration systems, which means children are breathing cleaner, fresher air and their health outcomes are improved. Clean air is particularly important to children, who are more susceptible to environmental harms such as air pollution because their lungs and immune system are still developing.

It is also vital that New Mexico keep abreast of changes in personal transportation. As electric vehicles become a larger and larger share of the cars on the roads, families will be in greater need of places to charge them. With the recent passage of the Advanced Clean Cars and Trucks II rules, New Mexicans will soon be able to embrace the superior technology of EVs in greater numbers than ever before. As EVs are cheaper to drive and refuel than gas-powered cars, they will also help families save money that can be spent on other priorities. Developers who provide EV charging infrastructure in their new construction will find they have a commercial advantage over the existing housing units that lack it.

The shift from gas-powered vehicles to EVs is as necessary as it is inevitable. The 2021 Energy Conservation Codes are just one more important step toward embracing the coming changes and protecting our planet and our children's future.



Bill Jordan  
Interim Co-Director