

## Oppose SB 18 — Public Testimony Guide

Talking Points & 1-Minute Examples

### IMPORTANT REMINDER

You only have ONE (1) minute to testify (*that's about 120-150 words*).

- Practice ahead of time and time yourself.
- Calm, respectful, and concise testimony is the most effective.
- You do not need to be an expert — personal impact matters

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### GOAL OF TESTIMONY

Oppose SB 18 by emphasizing:

- Protection of New Mexico families and workers
- Economic stability and affordability
- Impacts on jobs, agriculture, and rural communities
- Fairness, accountability, and fiscal responsibility

SB 18 is not balanced climate policy — it places disproportionate economic risk on families, farmers, and essential public services.

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### KEY TALKING POINTS (Choose 2–3)

You do not need to cover everything. Pick what resonates most with you.

- Oil and gas supports roughly 50% of New Mexico's state budget
- Energy revenue funds schools, healthcare, public safety, and infrastructure
- SB 18 mandates aggressive emissions reductions with no protections for jobs or affordability
- Higher energy costs raise food, fuel, and electricity prices
- Farmers and ranchers depend on affordable fuel, power, and fertilizer
- Rural communities will lose high-wage jobs
- The bill applies regulations unevenly, exempting some operations while burdening others
- New Mexico is already reducing emissions under existing rules

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### WHAT TO AVOID

- Attacking individuals or lawmakers
- Dismissing environmental concerns
- Emotional or accusatory language

- Long personal stories that exceed time
- Overloading testimony with statistics

*Tone matters. Calm confidence carries weight.*

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### **SAMPLE 1-MINUTE TESTIMONY #1 — Family & Cost-of-Living Perspective**

“Good afternoon, Chair and members of the committee.

My name is \_\_\_\_, and I live in \_\_\_\_.

I’m here today to respectfully oppose SB 18. This bill threatens the oil and gas industry that supports roughly half of New Mexico’s state budget — funding schools, healthcare, and public safety families rely on.

SB 18 mandates aggressive emissions reductions without protecting jobs or affordability. As energy costs rise, families like mine will pay more for fuel, electricity, and food. That burden falls hardest on working and rural households.

New Mexico is already making progress under existing rules. We can care for the environment without putting families and essential services at risk. I respectfully urge you to vote NO on SB 18. Thank you.”

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### **SAMPLE 1-MINUTE TESTIMONY #2 — Agriculture / Rural Community Perspective**

“Chair and members, thank you for the opportunity to speak.

My name is \_\_\_\_, and I’m a farmer/rancher/community member from \_\_\_\_.

I oppose SB 18 because it increases costs for agriculture and rural communities. Farmers and ranchers depend on affordable fuel, electricity, and fertilizer. When energy costs rise, food prices rise, and family operations struggle to survive.

This bill places new regulatory burdens on some producers while exempting others, creating unfair and uneven impacts across the state. New Mexico families will pay more, while emissions are simply shifted elsewhere.

We need balanced policy that protects both the environment and our livelihoods. I urge you to vote NO on SB 18.”

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### **SAMPLE 1-MINUTE TESTIMONY #3 — Short & Direct**

“Good afternoon, members of the committee.

My name is \_\_\_\_.

I’m here to oppose SB 18. This bill risks jobs, raises costs for families and farmers, and threatens the revenue that funds schools and essential services across New Mexico.

SB 18 mandates aggressive regulations without safeguards for affordability, fairness, or economic stability. We can pursue environmental stewardship without sacrificing working families and rural communities.

I respectfully ask you to vote NO on SB 18. Thank you for your time.”

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### **FINAL TIP**

Write your testimony out, read it aloud, and time yourself.

If it’s over one minute, cut it down — shorter is stronger, clearer, and more effective.