



October 16, 2017

Ms. Jamie Gonzales  
Policy Division, New Mexico Public Education Department, Room 101  
300 Don Gaspar Avenue  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Re: PED's Proposed 6.29.10 NMAC - New Mexico Stem-Ready Science Standards

Dear Ms. Gonzales,

New Mexico's near-term prosperity and long-term growth depend on a vibrant private sector, and as the statewide advocate of business interests, the New Mexico Association of Commerce and Industry (ACI) represents employers across every industry at the state and federal levels. ACI is a member-driven organization, meaning that our policy positions and priorities represent the statewide business community. ACI has around a dozen policy committees, comprised entirely of our members, which meet multiple times throughout the year to craft our policy positions and priorities.

Through our collaborative and consensus-based process, ACI's membership supports the adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). In its policy-positions statement, ACI's Education and Workforce Development Committee writes, "These K-12 science content standards represent a national effort that has taken more than five years, overseen by the National Academy of Sciences, the National Science Teachers Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and Achieve. It represents a research-based, up-to-date set of standards that can be used by local educators to develop curricula and classroom learning experiences that prepare students in the 21st century for college, careers and citizenship."

In May 2016, ACI submitted comments to the Math and Science Bureau urging NGSS adoption as written. While ACI appreciates PED's initiative to update the existing science standards, in maintaining consistency and advocating for the approved policy positions of our members, we ask that PED revise the New Mexico-specific content and pursue the adoption of NGSS, as written.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Espinoza".

Jason Espinoza  
President & CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John P. Jekowski".

Jack Jekowski, Chair  
ACI Education & Workforce Development Committee