



Good afternoon, and thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

My name is Sara Kaynor. I am the Executive Director of ECHO, Inc. here in Farmington, and a long standing Board Member of Prosperity Works.

I am here today on behalf of Prosperity Works to speak about House Joint Memorial 13, which was passed at the 2012 legislative session. The memorial went through five committees in the house and senate and passed through all of them, as well as both the floor and the house – with only a single vote against it. HJM 13 also had support from several utilities, including PNM, NMGC, El Paso Electric as well as the green chamber of commerce and other non-profit pro-consumer organizations.

As you can see, the memorial sought to create an interim committee to appoint an advisory board (made of utility reps, consumer advocates, the AG, PRC staff, etc) to TO STUDY WAYS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL ENERGY ASSISTANCE FOR LOW- INCOME CUSTOMERS AND TO REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. This could entail coming up with a bill that would make small changes to the Public Utility Act, that would allow each individual utility to be able to implement concessions for low income customers as each individual utility sees fit. Unfortunately, legislative services did not have the budget to create a new interim committee. I am here today to ask you to stand in the shoes of that committee.

This will require very little on the committee's part. All I am asking for today is your blessing to create an advisory board as described in HJ13 to discuss possible solutions to the low income/energy affordability problem in New Mexico. The committee will be made up of volunteers from utilities, consumer advocates, the AG, the PRC staff. We ask that you empower us today to invite all interested parties to serve on the committee. If this advisory committee is able to come up with a proposal, we also ask for your permission to come back when you meet again in the fall for your consideration of a proposed bill in the 2013 session.

Thank you for your time. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

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