



Thursday, February 23, 2023

What is next for the New Mexico Green Amendment?

People are rightly asking: What is next for the New Mexico Green Amendment?

Is it dead? Is it on life support? Is it barreling to passage and I simply missed it?

All good questions to which there is no easy answer. But let me begin by assuring you, the New Mexico Green Amendment is most certainly NOT dead! While this year has posed hurdles that we, the supporters of the NM Green Amendment, are seeking to overcome, and even if the amendment does not make it all the way through the process this year, we will be better positioned for next year. That is the nature of a constitutional amendment - it is harder to secure but that is among its greatest values because that means it is also harder to lose once secured.

As for this year, it does look like the industry and those in the legislature who either oppose or don't want to be forced to vote on the record have effectively used the limited duration of the legislative session to their advantage; while we have been effectively using the time to ferret out and respond to the false opposition, and building allies in government offices that will be a big help as we move forward.

As all advocates in New Mexico know, the legislative system is always difficult to predict so I will not hazard a guess on the ultimate outcome, but I will definitely say the effort to continue to spread the word and build our foundation of support will well serve us as we continue to strive forward for meaningful and enforceable environmental rights in New Mexico.

We continue the effort to address the misunderstandings of the Attorney General's office, as well as the lies and misinformation campaign of industrial wind and power line companies. And we need you to continue, when you can, to urge your legislators to go on the record publicly in support of the amendment – as a cosponsor, with a press statement, in social media, or during their community outreach events. I don't know when there will be another hearing this year, but I do know there will be another hearing and a time when all legislators will have to vote yay or nay. It is up to us to make sure that when that time comes, they do the right thing and vote in support of the right of the people to a clean, safe and healthy environment that is protected equitably across communities and generations.

In solidarity,

Maya K. van Rossum
Founder, Green Amendments For The Generations