

Powering Up New Mexico

Need:

- **Grid Limitations:** Individual drivers, truck and bus fleets, and other businesses face a significant hurdle in transitioning to zero-emissions due to delays in acquiring sufficient power to install and operate needed EV charging stations. And energization delays are also undermining efforts to advance other forms of beneficial electrification in buildings.
- **Regulatory Barriers:** Existing rules hinder timely investment in grid equipment necessary for utilities to meet their customers' needs, hindering progress toward transportation and building electrification that benefits all New Mexicans.
- **Delayed Benefits:** Delaying the deployment of grid and charging infrastructure means delaying the \$30 billion in net-benefits MJ Bradley & Associates estimates would accrue to New Mexicans as a result of widespread EV adoption. That includes \$20 billion in savings on gasoline and diesel, \$5 billion in avoided emissions, and \$5 billion in reduced utility bills because EV charging contributes more in revenue to than it costs utilities to serve.

Solution:

The *Powering Up New Mexico Act* takes a thoughtful and comprehensive approach to address these challenges.

- **Building Once, Building Right:** Reduces costs by requiring utilities to right-size and future-proof grid investments consistent with state law and regulations.
- **Timely Energization:** Directs the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (PRC) to establish average and maximum target energization timelines connect new customers or upgrade the service of existing customers. Requires utilities to report compliance, explain any delays, and take corrective actions.
- **Enforcement Mechanisms:** Empowers the PRC to take necessary actions to enforce compliance with established deadlines, fostering accountability in the utilities' commitment to timely energization.
- **Workforce Development:** Requires utilities to report workforce needs to meet the act's requirements and encourages hiring accordingly, ensuring a skilled workforce for the evolving energy landscape.
- **Helps Customers Electrify Buildings:** Directs utilities to propose programs subject to PRC review and approval that help customers adopt efficient electric appliances, as they currently do with electric vehicle charging stations.
- **Aligns Utility Planning with Decarbonization and Air Quality Goals:** Makes it state policy for investor-owned utilities to prepare the grid for transportation and building electrification aligned with federal, state, regional, and local climate and air quality laws and standards.