



Policy Priorities for 2021 Legislative Session –

Support positioning New Mexico to be a leader in economic recovery and ensure a safe environment for our communities, our employees, and our guests through:

- Engaging with policy makers to develop safe re-opening strategies that are research driven
- Maintaining investment in Tourism Department marketing budget and projects that ignite economic recovery; prioritize infrastructure development and funding for statewide tourism assets (existing and new), and protect the NM True brand
- Supporting the Governor's proposal for \$25 million in additional tourism marketing funding
- Protecting Lodgers' Tax revenue for its intended purpose to ensure adequate funding for local economic recovery plans (when the time is right). Keep Lodgers' Tax in current form – authorized, administered, and managed by local entities
- Maintaining Tourism Department as a stand-alone entity with cabinet-level Secretary
- Supporting legislation to increase per diem rates

Advocate with state and federal partners to ensure that the travel and tourism industry is included and prioritized as policy and funding programs are developed (the industry needs more than loan programs to survive). NMHA will work with our partners to:

- Assist in re-development of NMFA/Small Business Recovery Act to better serve the needs of the hospitality industry
- Support the development of other alternatives for funding mechanisms such as debt relief, tax credits, deferred and no penalty/interest tax payments, grants, etc.
- Support a Liability Protections plan
- Support a freeze of Unemployment Insurance rates through December 2022 (utilize federal stimulus dollars to support freeze and replenish UI Trust Fund)
- Support the forgiveness of GRT penalties, inspection fees, liquor license fees (if taxes are paid within a specified time frame)
- Oppose workplace benefit bills that place additional financial burdens on New Mexico businesses
- Monitor/evaluate bills that propose changes to GRT/Corp. Income/Personal Income Tax statutes (avoid increasing monetary burden on businesses) and evaluate new tax proposals
- Support allowing restaurants to include alcohol with takeout and delivery orders