**Testimony Template –**

Remember:

* Your story is what can make a difference in the hearts and minds of decision makers
* Testimony is usually limited to 2 mins.
* Don’t forget to address them by their title and don’t forget to “make the ask “
* Share a positive story that supports your request

**Blank Template:**

Senator / Representative \_\_< insert their last name > \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I’m from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and

 <insert your name here> <your county or city>

I’m a leader with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

I’m here today because …..< insert short story of why this bill matters to you > \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Example:**

We are all deserving of access to New Mexico-grown and raised foods for children, seniors, families and at our local grocery stores and farmers’ markets. When schools, senior centers and early childhood centers have the opportunity to buy New Mexico-grown and raised foods we are promoting health and well-being for our communities and economic opportunities for our farmers. I ask that you vote to pass *\_\_< insert bill you are testifying on and legislative sponsor>* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your time today. Here’s my contact information. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Food Initiative Testimony Example**

Senator/Representative,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I’m from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and I represent \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

I am a farmer, community member, school/senior food service director at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. My farm/school/senior center engages in the New Mexico Grown Program and provides lunches with delicious locally grown fruits and vegetables. This is important to me because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Our students/seniors enjoy eating New Mexico grown fruits and vegetables because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I also believe the New Mexico Food Initiative will benefit seniors, children, people who need food assistance, and farmers who grow our food and do business in New Mexico.

We are all deserving of access to fresh New Mexico-grown foods in schools, universities, senior centers, farmers’ markets, grocery stores, and roadside stands. The Food, Farms, and Hunger Initiative will support the health and well-being of our communities and economic opportunities for our farmers. Please support the NM Food, Farms, and Hunger Initiative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sponsored by Representative/Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Thank you for your time.

**Farmer Testimony Example**

Senator/Representative,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I’m from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and I farm \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

I am a farmer in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I raise \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for schools, senior meal programs, farmers’ markets, grocery stores, and/or roadside stands. My farm engages in the New Mexico Grown Program and provides melons, apples, squash, … delicious locally grown fruits and vegetables. This has helped me expand my farm business and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Students and seniors enjoy eating New Mexico grown fruits and vegetables because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I also believe the New Mexico Grown Program will benefit seniors and young children.

We are all deserving of access to fresh New Mexico-grown fruits and vegetables for children, students and seniors that promotes health and economic opportunities for our farmers. Please support \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sponsored by Representative/Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Thank you for your time. Here’s my contact information. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**“Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund” - Conservation Initiatives Testimony Example**

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Senator/Representative,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I’m from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and I farm/ranch \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

I am a farmer/rancher in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I raise \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. My farm engages in Soil and Water Conservation Programs administered by the NM Department of Agriculture. These programs provide technical assistance, resources, and vital information to me as ways for me to best steward my family farm/ranch. Investing in these programs provides critical resources for farmers and ranchers \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

I’m here today because …..< insert short story of why this bill matters to you > \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your time and interest. Here’s my contact information. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Example Testimony:**

**Problem:** New Mexico is leaving federal money on the table for conservation programs that could better protect our communities from wildfire, flood and drought, conserve our land and watershed health, support rural and agricultural communities, and grow our outdoor recreation economy.

**Solution:** A conservation trust fund to leverage federal dollars using dedicated, recurring state funding for land and water stewardship in all 33 counties. This proposal is a bipartisan compromise stemming from two years of negotiations among a broad coalition of NGOs, legislators, LFC staff and executive agencies.

**Opportunity:**

• A conservation trust fund would fully fund land and water stewardship programs for the first time in a generation, giving legislators the opportunity to deliver for New Mexico communities and better protect them from extreme weather conditions like historic wildfires, flooding and severe drought.

• It would also preserve our cultural heritage and outdoor traditions, leaving a legacy for our children to hunt, fish, farm, and enjoy the lands and waters the way our ancestors have for generations.

Please support \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sponsored by Representative/Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Thank you for your time.

**Water Initiatives – Sample Testimonial**

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Senator/Representative,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I’m from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and I farm/ranch/consumer \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

I am a farmer/rancher/resident of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I raise \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

I’m here today because …..< insert short story of why this bill matters to you > \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your time and interest. Here’s my contact information. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Examples:**

I/we value water and water rights for the cultivation of nutritious, culturally significant, local food for consumption by New Mexicans. These water rights need to be protected. If we protect water for food production in New Mexico, we will even the playing field for NM based farmers and local community food systems to be economically and environmentally resilient.

We need to protect water and prioritize sustainable water solutions to cultivate food for people in New Mexico.

We want to coordinate local food production and water needs with programs like the NM Food Initiative, NM Healthy Soil Program, acequias, soil and water conservation programs, restoration of watersheds, riparian restoration, land stewardship, and others~~.~~