



**SPONSOR:**

**Lee S. Cotter**

**BILL: SB76**

Bernalillo County Government supports “Agritourism Liability Limitations Act” (SB76) as SB76 is in align with our current efforts of *Cultivating Bernalillo County: An Agricultural Initiative* (CBC). The vision of CBC is to promote a locally-based food and agricultural system that advances Bernalillo County’s economic, environmental and social well-being through education, partnerships and public policy recommendations.

Through our work of CBC, Bernalillo County Government intends to establish Bernalillo County as an agritourism destination. In order to achieve this goal, local growers/producers must be supported in their efforts of creating agritourism businesses. Several small growers/producers have expressed a desire to operate an agritourism business; however, due to the high cost of insurance for this type of business, most of these small growers/producers find this cost a great hindrance. SB76 does not remove the liability of an owner of an agritourism business, but rather limits their liability when proper posting requirements are met. This limited liability is most often a more affordable option for agritourism businesses.

The greater hope of establishing Bernalillo County as an agritourism destination is that Bernalillo County will act as the gateway to other agritourism businesses along the Rio Grande corridor and across New Mexico, therefore bringing in a much needed boost to our County’s local as well as New Mexico’s economy. Therefore, passing of SB76 helps Bernalillo County Government’s effort to support and preserve local agriculture while also contributing to our economy.