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SENATE MEMORIAL 6

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

Pat Woods

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION TO CONVENE STAKEHOLDERS TO STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AND OWNERSHIP AND EVALUATE FEDERAL REVENUE STREAMS' IMPACTS ON THE STATE, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND COMMUNITY ECONOMIES.

WHEREAS, New Mexico encompasses approximately seventy-seven and one-half million acres of land; and

WHEREAS, approximately thirty-five percent of New Mexico's land is federal land administered by agencies such as the bureau of land management, the United States forest service, the bureau of reclamation, the United States national park service, the United States army corps of engineers, national wildlife reserve areas, federal water resource development projects and military installations; and

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1 WHEREAS, New Mexico and its counties depend on federal
2 revenues to support vital state, county and local budgets,
3 programs, services and operations; and

4 WHEREAS, New Mexico counties received thirty-seven million
5 six hundred seventy-seven thousand nine hundred five dollars
6 (\$37,677,905) in payments in lieu of taxes (PILT) in 2014 to
7 provide general fund revenue; and

8 WHEREAS, New Mexico received nine million five hundred
9 twelve thousand six hundred ninety-two dollars (\$9,512,692) in
10 federal forest reserve payments in 2014 from the Secure Rural
11 Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (SRS); and

12 WHEREAS, counties rely on federal funding through PILT and
13 SRS to provide essential support for schools, road
14 infrastructure, search and rescue operations, wildfire
15 preparedness, county operations and other community services
16 that protect the health, safety and welfare of New Mexico
17 residents; and

18 WHEREAS, federal funds are also distributed to county
19 governments as a pass-through from state agencies for county
20 infrastructure, economic development, wildfire prevention and
21 response, energy and natural resource investments, emergency
22 management, E911, health care and social programs; and

23 WHEREAS, there is increasing uncertainty regarding the
24 federal commitment to funding these vital county and state
25 programs, which makes it difficult to budget for necessary

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1 services; and

2 WHEREAS, there have been proposals for the state and
3 counties to take a more active role in federal land management;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, New Mexico and its counties have a vested
6 interest in decisions on federal land management and natural
7 resource exploration and development; and

8 WHEREAS, New Mexico and its counties need an evaluation of
9 the legal, economic and practical framework surrounding federal
10 land management;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
12 OF NEW MEXICO that the local government division of the
13 department of finance and administration be requested to
14 convene stakeholders to:

15 A. study and make recommendations on the legal,
16 economic and practical framework surrounding federal land
17 management;

18 B. conduct an inventory of federal land ownership
19 within the state;

20 C. evaluate state and county dependence on federal
21 revenue streams; and

22 D. consider not only state interests, but also the
23 interests of local governments and community economies in any
24 economic analysis; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that stakeholders include but not

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1 be limited to representatives from the New Mexico association
2 of counties; the New Mexico municipal league; Native American
3 pueblos, tribes, and nations; soil and water conservation
4 districts; land grant entities; acequia associations; the New
5 Mexico department of agriculture; and state and federal land
6 management agencies; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
8 transmitted to the secretary of finance and administration.

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