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SENATE MEMORIAL 16

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NATURAL HERITAGE NEW MEXICO DIVISION OF THE MUSEUM OF SOUTHWESTERN BIOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO, IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER RELEVANT AGENCIES, TO STUDY THE DEVELOPMENT, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A WEB-BASED INFORMATION PORTAL THAT WOULD ALLOW PUBLIC ACCESS TO STATE ENVIRONMENTAL DATA.

WHEREAS, numerous New Mexico agencies have environmental data compiled in separate databases that do not interface with each other; and

WHEREAS, an environmental database would provide a centralized, map-based, searchable website to house New Mexico's environmental data; and

WHEREAS, a centralized environmental database would improve the state's environmental data infrastructure by

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1 creating, operating and maintaining a database that would be
2 free, user-friendly, searchable and accessible to the public
3 and state agencies; and

4 WHEREAS, an environmental database would house the state's
5 environmental data for the purpose of governmental
6 transparency, interagency cooperation and information sharing;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, an environmental database would provide
9 widespread access to the best scientific data to address the
10 state's natural resource and environmental management needs;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, information is needed to identify existing
13 environmental databases, the desired architecture and the cost
14 for a common system; and

15 WHEREAS, the natural heritage New Mexico division of the
16 museum of southwestern biology at the university of New Mexico
17 has the expertise to study the development, operation and
18 maintenance of a web-based information portal of state
19 environmental data; and

20 WHEREAS, the bureau of geology and mineral resources at
21 the New Mexico institute of mining and technology and the New
22 Mexico resource geographic information system program and
23 clearinghouse at the earth data analysis center at the
24 university of New Mexico would bring valuable knowledge to the
25 creation of a statewide environmental database; and

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1 WHEREAS, input from the energy, minerals and natural
2 resources department, the department of environment, the state
3 land office, the department of health, the department of game
4 and fish, the public regulation commission, the historic
5 preservation division of the cultural affairs department and
6 the department of information technology would contribute to
7 the study of the viability of a state environmental database;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
9 OF NEW MEXICO that the division leader of the natural heritage
10 New Mexico division of the museum of southwestern biology at
11 the university of New Mexico be requested to study the
12 development, operation and maintenance of a web-based
13 information portal that would allow public access to state
14 environmental data; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the bureau of geology and
16 mineral resources at the New Mexico institute of mining and
17 technology and the New Mexico resource geographic information
18 system program and clearinghouse at the earth data analysis
19 center at the university of New Mexico be requested to
20 participate in the study of the viability of a statewide
21 environmental database; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that representatives of the energy,
23 minerals and natural resources department, the department of
24 environment, the state land office, the department of health,
25 the department of game and fish, the public regulation

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1 commission, the historic preservation division of the cultural
2 affairs department and the department of information technology
3 be requested to participate in the study of the viability of a
4 statewide environmental database; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the division leader of the
6 natural heritage New Mexico division of the museum of
7 southwestern biology at the university of New Mexico be
8 requested to report its findings and conclusions to the
9 appropriate interim legislative committee by November 1, 2021;
10 and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
12 transmitted to the division leader of the natural heritage New
13 Mexico division of the museum of southwestern biology at the
14 university of New Mexico, the director of the bureau of geology
15 and mineral resources at the New Mexico institute of mining and
16 technology, the director of the New Mexico resource geographic
17 information system program and clearinghouse at the earth data
18 analysis center at the university of New Mexico, the secretary
19 of energy, minerals and natural resources, the secretary of
20 environment, the commissioner of public lands, the secretary of
21 health, the director of the department of game and fish, the
22 chair of the public regulation commission, the director of the
23 historic preservation division of the cultural affairs
24 department and the secretary of information technology.