

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF
3 BUSINESS, THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE
4 ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON CENTER FOR HEALTH POLICY AT THE
5 UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY
6 THE DEMISE OF RURAL GROCERY STORES AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS
7 TO THE LEGISLATURE TO HELP REVERSE THIS TREND.

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9 WHEREAS, many independent grocery stores serving small
10 communities have closed; and

11 WHEREAS, many customers must travel significant
12 distances to buy food for their households when, in the past,
13 food could more easily be found close to their homes; and

14 WHEREAS, jobs have been lost and communities have lost
15 places for gatherings and socializing; and

16 WHEREAS, the center for rural affairs has concluded that
17 two million three hundred thousand Americans live in food
18 deserts, which are areas that are ten or more miles from a
19 grocery store; and

20 WHEREAS, there are nationwide efforts to improve access
21 to locally produced food through Farm to Table; and

22 WHEREAS, New Mexico has a statewide initiative with the
23 W.K. Kellogg foundation to establish healthy communities;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
25 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico state university

1 college of business, the New Mexico department of agriculture
2 and the Robert Wood Johnson center for health policy at the
3 university of New Mexico be requested to serve as a lead team
4 in convening a statewide working group to study the issue and
5 recommend ways to sustain rural grocery stores, including
6 public-private partnerships; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the lead team inform
8 communities of the importance of supporting local grocery
9 stores, as well as inform communities of the financial and
10 social consequences of the loss of local grocery stores by
11 conducting town hall-style meetings and community dialogues;
12 and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group involve a
14 broad range of stakeholders in the rural grocery initiative
15 and the study, including:

- 16 A. food policy councils;
- 17 B. the New Mexico farm and livestock bureau;
- 18 C. the New Mexico association of counties;
- 19 D. councils of governments;
- 20 E. the Anderson school of management at the
21 university of New Mexico;
- 22 F. the economic development department;
- 23 G. New Mexico First;
- 24 H. the New Mexico municipal league;
- 25 I. interested federal agencies, such as the

1 United States department of agriculture;

2 J. interested non-governmental organizations; and

3 K. the Santa Fe community foundation; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group present
5 its findings and recommendations to the appropriate interim
6 committee of the legislature by July 1, 2018; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
8 transmitted electronically to the members of the board of
9 regents of New Mexico state university, the director of the
10 New Mexico department of agriculture and the director of the
11 Robert Wood Johnson center for health policy at the University
12 of New Mexico.

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