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HOUSE RESOLUTION 2

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004

INTRODUCED BY

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A RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING THE INTENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO
AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECTS
THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF NEW
MEXICANS AND THAT EQUITABLY SERVE ALL NEW MEXICANS.

WHEREAS, the constitutional authority to make state policy
and to appropriate state funds rests with the people of the
state of New Mexico as expressed through their elected
representatives in the house of representatives and the senate;
and

WHEREAS, as the elected representatives of the people,
legislators understand and respect the policymaking and
appropriating responsibilities and duties that have been
entrusted to them; and

WHEREAS, decisions on how best to allocate the funds that

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1 are available annually for capital outlay projects are among
2 the most difficult decisions that legislators make each year as
3 they work to evaluate the relative merits of various projects;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, the legislature has balanced the need to fund
6 projects of statewide impact with the need to fund local
7 projects by authorizing more than six hundred ten million
8 dollars (\$610,000,000) for state projects since 1998 compared
9 to less than four hundred twenty million dollars (\$420,000,000)
10 for local projects; and

11 WHEREAS, since 1998, more than sixty percent of the
12 funding authorized has been for public school and higher
13 education projects; road, highway and other transportation
14 projects; public safety and law enforcement projects; health
15 care, child care and daycare projects; government building
16 projects; and water projects, and less than ten percent of the
17 funding over that time period was authorized for parks,
18 recreation, school sports, playgrounds or miscellaneous
19 projects; and

20 WHEREAS, the method employed by the legislature of
21 allocating funds for capital outlay projects has ensured that
22 such funding is distributed equitably throughout the state so
23 that all New Mexico residents enjoy the economic, health,
24 safety, educational and social benefits of infrastructure; and

25 WHEREAS, a variety of funding sources are available for

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1 capital outlay projects and the legislature's evaluation of
2 projects should ensure that the proposed source of project
3 financing is the best source for each project selected to be
4 funded; and

5 WHEREAS, despite the wise decisions that have been made in
6 the past, improvements can be made to the method of allocating
7 capital outlay funds to ensure that the state's resources are
8 used in the most efficient manner;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
10 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the following
11 guidelines be adopted in considering the appropriation of state
12 funds for capital outlay projects in 2004:

13 A. funding for capital outlay projects should be
14 distributed equitably to all regions of the state to ensure
15 that all New Mexico residents share in the economic, health,
16 safety, educational and social benefits of improved
17 infrastructure;

18 B. capital outlay projects that are important to
19 public health, safety, education and transportation should
20 continue to be funded before other projects are funded;

21 C. projects that are prepared to draw funding by
22 January 2005 should be authorized to receive funding before
23 other projects;

24 D. a majority of the funds available for capital
25 outlay projects should continue to be allocated to projects

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1 having statewide significance;

2 E. a portion of funds available for capital outlay
3 projects should be allocated to renovating and repairing
4 existing infrastructure rather than initiating new projects;

5 F. projects that have support from other
6 governmental units, as evidenced by matching funding, prudent
7 and reasonable commitments for operation, projected use
8 studies, prior review by policymaking bodies or similar
9 evidence, should have priority for funding over other projects;

10 G. projects financed with the proceeds from the
11 sale of bonds should have a projected useful life equal to or
12 longer than the life of the bond;

13 H. projects that will require funding for multiple
14 phases should be funded only with the understanding that the
15 legislature and its financing partners will be asked to fund
16 the subsequent phases of the project;

17 I. projects for which reauthorization is sought
18 should be subject to the same guidelines as all other projects;
19 and

20 J. projects should not be authorized if doing so
21 would violate Article 9, Section 14 of the constitution of New
22 Mexico.