

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE EXPEDITIOUS DEVELOPMENT OF VIABLE
TRANSPORTATION ACCESS TO THE HISTORIC RADIUM HOT SPRINGS INN.

WHEREAS, the village of Radium Springs, a few miles north of Leasburg, New Mexico, owes its name to the free-flowing mineral hot springs once located there; and

WHEREAS, centuries ago, the springs were used as a resting place for Native American traders traveling between what is now Mexico and Santa Fe and were later used as a paraje, or rest stop, for Spanish traders and soldiers traveling on El Camino Real; and

WHEREAS, the soldiers once stationed at nearby Fort Seldon frequently enjoyed these mineral hot springs and built the first bathhouse in 1887; and

WHEREAS, the Radium Hot Springs inn, on the east bank of the Rio Grande in Radium Springs, New Mexico, was constructed in 1931 and replaced cabins that were built prior to 1910; and

WHEREAS, during its heyday, the Radium Hot Springs inn was a popular destination for residents of New Mexico and tourists to the state; and

WHEREAS, the Radium Hot Springs inn has had other uses of historical interest, including serving as the Radium Springs women's prison from 1978 to 1983; and

WHEREAS, the current owners purchased the property in

1995 and have undertaken a historic preservation renovation and rehabilitation effort so that the property might be reopened again as a hotel and tourist destination; and

WHEREAS, if the Radium Hot Springs inn is restored and reopened to the public, it would contribute positively to the historic preservation and economic development of Dona Ana county and southern New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the Radium Hot Springs inn and surrounding county and state facilities have been unsuccessful in developing feasible transportation routes in and out of the inn, and this has resulted in a continued lost opportunity for realizing the many benefits from this local resource; and

WHEREAS, all governmental parties with jurisdiction in and around the historic Radium Hot Springs inn must work diligently, expeditiously and without further delay in developing a viable transportation plan that will mitigate this issue as a remaining obstacle preventing the reopening of the Radium Hot Springs inn;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that options for improving public access to the Radium Hot Springs inn be evaluated and developed through a collaborative process that includes Dona Ana county, the village of Radium Springs, the bureau of reclamation in the United States department of the interior, the Elephant Butte irrigation district, the United

States international boundary and water commission, the state parks division of the energy, minerals and natural resources department, the hotel owners and other interested stakeholders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above-mentioned parties submit a report and analysis of various access options to the legislature, members of the Dona Ana county legislative delegation and Dona Ana county within ninety days of the passage of this memorial, and that Dona Ana county take responsibility for preparing this report with the full consent of the involved parties.