

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE EXPEDITIOUS DEVELOPMENT OF VIABLE
3 TRANSPORTATION ACCESS TO THE HISTORIC RADIUM HOT SPRINGS INN.
4

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 WHEREAS, the current owners purchased the property in
2 1995 and have undertaken a historic preservation renovation
3 and rehabilitation effort so that the property might be
4 reopened again as a hotel and tourist destination; and

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

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

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

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
21 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that options for improving public access
22 to the Radium Hot Springs inn be evaluated and developed
23 through a collaborative process that includes Dona Ana
24 county, the village of Radium Springs, the bureau of
25 reclamation in the United States department of the interior,

1 the Elephant Butte irrigation district, the United States
2 international boundary and water commission, the state parks
3 division of the energy, minerals and natural resources
4 department, the hotel owners and other interested
5 stakeholders; and

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

13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25