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SENATE MEMORIAL 76

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

Mary Jane M. Garcia

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

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1 the Rio Grande in Radium Springs, New Mexico, was constructed
2 in 1931 and replaced cabins that were built prior to 1910; and

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

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

9 WHEREAS, the current owners purchased the property in 1995
10 and have undertaken a historic preservation renovation and
11 rehabilitation effort so that the property might be reopened
12 again as a hotel and tourist destination; and

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

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

22 WHEREAS, all governmental parties with jurisdiction in and
23 around the historic Radium Hot Springs inn must work
24 diligently, expeditiously and without further delay in
25 developing a viable transportation plan that will mitigate this

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1 issue as a remaining obstacle preventing the reopening of the
2 Radium Hot Springs inn;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
4 OF NEW MEXICO that options for improving public access to the
5 Radium Hot Springs inn be evaluated and developed through a
6 collaborative process that includes Dona Ana county, the
7 village of Radium Springs, the bureau of reclamation in the
8 United States department of the interior, the Elephant Butte
9 irrigation district, the United States international boundary
10 and water commission, the state parks division of the energy,
11 minerals and natural resources department, the hotel owners and
12 other interested stakeholders; and

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