

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT TO STUDY THE
FEASIBILITY OF DESIGNATING THE BELEN HARVEY HOUSE AS A STATE
RAILROAD MUSEUM.

WHEREAS, the Belen Harvey house is located in the heart
of downtown Belen, where it has welcomed trains transporting
passengers since 1880; and

WHEREAS, Belen is a thriving community that was
originally founded in 1740 by Spaniards in honor of the city
of Bethlehem; and

WHEREAS, Belen is located along the original Camino
Real, which is among New Mexico's most important cultural
artifacts; and

WHEREAS, Belen became a bustling railroad center for the
Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad, which first arrived in
Belen in 1880, generating town growth, community and industry;
and

WHEREAS, in 1907, the Santa Fe railroad completed the
Belen cutoff from Amarillo, Texas, making it possible for many
more trains to travel east and west across the United States
and alleviating train travel through the steep Raton pass to
the north; and

WHEREAS, the creation of the cutoff resulted in Belen
becoming known as "the hub city"; and

WHEREAS, the site of the old Harvey house restaurant began serving passengers traveling through the southwest in 1901 and now houses the only Harvey house museum in the state; and

WHEREAS, the Belen railroad depot now serves as the southernmost stop of the New Mexico railrunner express, transporting commuters and others north as far as Santa Fe and bringing commuters and visitors safely to this charming community, continuing the tradition begun with the inception of the Harvey house in 1901; and

WHEREAS, many additional trains on the southern transcontinental railroad pass through Belen each day; and

WHEREAS, the historic and current significance of the Belen railroad combines to make the Belen Harvey house the ideal location for a state railroad museum;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the cultural affairs department be requested to study the feasibility of designating the Belen Harvey house as a state railroad museum; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the office of the governor and the secretary of cultural affairs.