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HOUSE MEMORIAL 63

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011

INTRODUCED BY

Patricia A. Lundstrom

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO STUDY THE
FEASIBILITY OF EXTENDING THE RAIL RUNNER EXPRESS FROM
ALBUQUERQUE TO GALLUP.

WHEREAS, the Rail Runner Express is a commuter rail
service that runs between Belen and Santa Fe carrying people to
work, stores, entertainment and tourist attractions; and

WHEREAS, to date, two phases of the Rail Runner Express
have been completed, and the availability of this commuter
option has reduced the burden on commuters of skyrocketing
gasoline prices; and

WHEREAS, phase one extended commuter rail service from
Belen to the town of Bernalillo in July 2006; and

WHEREAS, phase two extended commuter rail service from
Bernalillo to Santa Fe, completing the entire route from Belen

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1 to Santa Fe in December 2008; and

2 WHEREAS, the residents of Gallup would like to see the
3 Rail Runner Express extended even farther to provide rail
4 service for commuters and others to the west of Albuquerque;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, the Rail Runner Express has met with great
7 enthusiasm and has been heavily patronized by commuters who
8 work in Albuquerque but live in outlying communities and by
9 commuters who work in Santa Fe and live in other communities;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Gallup is the gateway from the west into New
12 Mexico; and

13 WHEREAS, Gallup was built around being a railroad town and
14 has a long history with Amtrak and the Harvey houses;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
16 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department
17 of transportation be requested to conduct a feasibility study
18 to determine possible routes, optimum frequency of trips and
19 potential costs of extending the Rail Runner Express from
20 Albuquerque to Gallup; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study create plans that
22 can be set into action to maximize the use of possible funds
23 that the federal government may make available in the future
24 for public transit systems; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study will not commence

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1 until sufficient funds have been allocated from local public
2 and private sources to pay for the study, such that the
3 department of transportation will provide technical and
4 administrative support for the study, but that the department's
5 financial contribution, if any, will be negligible; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the feasibility study, when
7 complete, be presented to the appropriate legislative interim
8 committees by October 31, 2011 and that a copy of the study be
9 submitted to the library of the legislative council service;
10 and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
12 transmitted to the secretary of transportation and the
13 governor.

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