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SENATE MEMORIAL 45

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

INTRODUCED BY

John Pinto

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS AND THE STATE LAND OFFICE TO STUDY THE BENEFITS OF A LAND EXCHANGE WITH THE NAVAJO NATION.

WHEREAS, the commissioner of public lands has issued a lease to the division of transportation of the Navajo Nation for eighty-five and sixty-eight hundredths acres of state trust land near the community of Tse Bonito in McKinley county, upon which the division of transportation is constructing a transportation center, consisting of office buildings, a parking lot and a road maintenance yard and support facilities; and

WHEREAS, it may be in the best interests of the Navajo Nation to own the land upon which the transportation center is to be located rather than to lease the land from the state; and

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1 WHEREAS, the Enabling Act trust, administered by the
2 commissioner of public lands, might materially benefit from a
3 land exchange in which the state, through the commissioner of
4 public lands, conveys to the Navajo Nation the land now leased
5 by the division of transportation of the Navajo Nation and the
6 Navajo Nation conveys to the state, for the benefit of the
7 Enabling Act trust, non-reservation lands that can be used more
8 productively by the state land office and its authorized users;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
10 OF NEW MEXICO that the commissioner of public lands and the
11 state land office be requested to conduct a review and analysis
12 of the lease of state trust land to the division of
13 transportation of the Navajo Nation; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the analysis address the
15 possibilities for a land exchange in which the state conveys to
16 the Navajo Nation the land now leased by its division of
17 transportation and the Navajo Nation conveys to the state
18 non-reservation lands of equal or greater value that can be
19 used more productively by the state land office and its
20 authorized users; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commissioner of public
22 lands and the state land office be requested to work
23 collaboratively with the division of transportation of the
24 Navajo Nation to identify non-reservation lands of equal or
25 greater appraised value than the lands now leased by the

.185597.1

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1 division of transportation that might be conveyed to the state
2 in exchange for the state trust lands now leased by the
3 division of transportation; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
5 transmitted to the commissioner of public lands.