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HOUSE MEMORIAL 11

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013

INTRODUCED BY

Debbie A. Rodella

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING NORTHERN RIO GRANDE WEAVING AS AN IMPORTANT
TRADITION UNIQUE TO NORTHERN NEW MEXICO AND HIGHLIGHTING THE
IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING THE TRADITION BY ESTABLISHING
STANDARDS OF AUTHENTICITY.

WHEREAS, northern Rio Grande weaving, also known as Rio Grande weaving and Chimayo weaving, is a traditional method of wool production and weaving unique to northern New Mexico that has been practiced for hundreds of years; and

WHEREAS, these traditions of wool production and weaving are part of the cultural heritage of northern New Mexico and need to be protected and conserved and are in danger of being forgotten by current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the northern Rio Grande national heritage area and northern New Mexico college have established a formal

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1 collaboration to promote the preservation, understanding and
2 appreciation for the cultural heritage and traditional
3 practices that include procedures, geometric design, dyes,
4 materials and equipment of northern Rio Grande weaving; and

5 WHEREAS, the northern Rio Grande weaving tradition and
6 methods are being threatened by inauthentic products and
7 methods claiming to be northern Rio Grande weaving; and

8 WHEREAS, there is a need to recognize and document the
9 standards for authenticity and promote and protect this
10 tradition; and

11 WHEREAS, formal recognition for the standards of
12 authenticity further adds to the value of these weaving
13 products and supports cultural preservation and economic
14 development;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
16 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the regulation
17 and licensing department be requested to work with northern New
18 Mexico college, the northern Rio Grande national heritage area
19 and its advisory committee to establish the standards and
20 criteria that define authentic northern Rio Grande weaving; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the regulation and licensing
22 department and northern New Mexico college be requested to work
23 together to provide recommendations to the legislature
24 regarding the establishment of a formal review board that will
25 evaluate submissions claiming to meet the standard of

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1 authenticity and recommendations for licensure and
2 certification for authentic northern Rio Grande weaving; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
4 transmitted to the superintendent of regulation and licensing
5 and the president of northern New Mexico college.