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HOUSE MEMORIAL 49

**52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015**

INTRODUCED BY

Javier Martínez

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO CONVENE A  
TASK FORCE TO STUDY METHODS TO FOSTER GROWTH FOR NEW MEXICO'S  
COOPERATIVE BUSINESS ECONOMY AND EMPLOYEE-OWNED BUSINESSES.

WHEREAS, cooperatives are businesses that are member-owned  
and operate for the mutual benefit of members; and

WHEREAS, there are estimated to be more than forty  
thousand cooperatives in the United States, with more than one  
hundred million member-owners; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations declared 2012 as the  
international year of cooperatives to raise awareness of  
cooperatives' important contributions to global socioeconomic  
development and to promote the growth and strengthening of  
cooperatives worldwide; and

WHEREAS, cooperatives have been created for agriculture,

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1 child care, credit, health care, housing, insurance, telephone  
2 and electricity and other businesses; and

3 WHEREAS, cooperatives are organized to strengthen  
4 bargaining power, maintain access to competitive markets,  
5 capitalize on new market opportunities, obtain needed products  
6 and services on a competitive basis, improve income  
7 opportunities, reduce costs and manage risk; and

8 WHEREAS, there are a number of cooperatives in New Mexico,  
9 including electrical, telecommunication, agricultural and food-  
10 distribution cooperatives; and

11 WHEREAS, worker-owned businesses align the interests of  
12 companies with their employees to foster a long-term focus on  
13 securing more sustainable growth, and employee ownership and  
14 engagement can increase workers' well-being and productivity;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, according to *U.S. News and World Report*, the  
17 number of worker-owned businesses in the United States is  
18 growing robustly at around six percent per year, and these  
19 businesses now account for about twelve percent of the private-  
20 sector work force; and

21 WHEREAS, worker ownership has the potential to be a force  
22 for systemic change in workplaces and in the economy, fostering  
23 widespread worker empowerment and workplace democracy; and

24 WHEREAS, cooperatives and employee-owned businesses play a  
25 crucial role in reducing poverty, increasing profitability and

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1 generating employment opportunities; and

2 WHEREAS, a study to determine the feasibility of expanding  
3 and strengthening cooperative economies and opportunities for  
4 employee-owned businesses in New Mexico would be beneficial;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
6 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary  
7 of economic development be requested to convene a task force to  
8 study methods to foster growth for New Mexico's cooperative  
9 business economy and employee-owned businesses; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include  
11 representatives of worker-owner resource groups and  
12 representatives of cooperative business projects and  
13 initiatives; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to  
15 report its findings and recommendations resulting from the  
16 study to the appropriate interim committee of the legislature  
17 by October 1, 2015; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report include a plan for  
19 implementation of the recommendations of the task force; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
21 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative  
22 council and the secretary of economic development.