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HOUSE MEMORIAL 63

**52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016**

INTRODUCED BY

Antonio "Moe" Maestas and Idalia Lechuga-Tena

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING RECOGNITION AND EXPLORATION OF THE POSSIBLE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF BUILDING A MULTIPURPOSE ARENA IN DOWNTOWN ALBUQUERQUE.

WHEREAS, the Albuquerque metropolitan area is a vibrant and rapidly evolving urban market; and

WHEREAS, the area has a population of more than nine hundred thousand residents and is currently growing at a steady pace of one or two percent a year, according to city of Albuquerque economic development department statistics; and

WHEREAS, Albuquerque boasts a temperate climate with more than three hundred days of sunshine a year, which makes it an ideal location for outdoor activities and entertainment; and

WHEREAS, Albuquerque city government has taken recent steps to reinvigorate Albuquerque's downtown corridor with a

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1 multifaceted plan that focuses on building, renovating and  
2 reimagining many areas of downtown; and

3 WHEREAS, projects are already underway for renovation of  
4 the convention center, reconstruction of an element on civic  
5 plaza and expansion of Albuquerque's burgeoning entertainment  
6 district; and

7 WHEREAS, the inclusion of a multipurpose arena as a sports  
8 and entertainment venue would greatly enhance the  
9 reinvigoration of Albuquerque's downtown corridor and provide  
10 positive economic benefits; and

11 WHEREAS, migration and growth patterns within the  
12 metropolitan area make downtown Albuquerque an excellent  
13 location for a new multipurpose arena as it provides  
14 accessibility to residents of the entire metropolitan area and  
15 is at the intersection of primary north-south and east-west  
16 interstates; and

17 WHEREAS, multipurpose arenas attract people throughout the  
18 year by offering sporting events, concerts, entertainment, job  
19 fairs and conventions; and

20 WHEREAS, multipurpose arenas sustain the local economy,  
21 and cities benefit from a year-round economic impact; and

22 WHEREAS, often, multipurpose arenas are connected to other  
23 venues, such as hotels and conferencing; shopping malls and  
24 education; and training facilities, which provide additional  
25 revenue opportunities; and

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1           WHEREAS, a multipurpose arena provides the economic  
2 advantage of a singular infrastructure and piece of real estate  
3 that can support more than one team or event; and

4           WHEREAS, a multipurpose arena could host minor league  
5 hockey, indoor soccer or other sports and could target an arena  
6 football franchise; and

7           WHEREAS, the Albuquerque area has the economic capacity to  
8 support a major league sports team, according to a recent  
9 analysis by *American City Business Journals*; and

10          WHEREAS, eighty-three markets in the United States and  
11 Canada were analyzed to determine if they had the financial  
12 ability to support new teams in baseball, football, basketball,  
13 hockey and soccer; and

14          WHEREAS, the analysis found that the greater metropolitan  
15 area, which includes Albuquerque, Rio Rancho and Santa Fe, has  
16 the economic capacity to support a major league sports team  
17 such as a soccer team; and

18          WHEREAS, many metropolitan area governments have taken  
19 advantage of the economic benefits of building multipurpose  
20 arenas in their downtown areas, including the Chesapeake Energy  
21 arena in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; the Jon M. Huntsman center in  
22 Salt Lake City, Utah; the Sleep Train arena in Sacramento,  
23 California; the Moda center in Portland, Oregon; the SAP center  
24 at San Jose, California; the Thomas & Mack center in Las Vegas,  
25 Nevada; the BOK center in Tulsa, Oklahoma; the CenturyLink

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1 center in Omaha, Nebraska; the Wells Fargo arena in Des Moines,  
2 Iowa; and the Pinnacle Bank arena in Lincoln, Nebraska; and

3 WHEREAS, the Duke City Gladiators arena football team  
4 plays at several multipurpose arenas with smaller city  
5 populations than Albuquerque, including the United Wireless  
6 arena in Dodge City, Kansas; the Allen event center in Allen,  
7 Texas; and the INTRUST Bank arena in Wichita, Kansas;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
9 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the possible  
10 economic benefits of building a multipurpose arena in downtown  
11 Albuquerque be recognized and explored; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
13 transmitted to the mayor of the city of Albuquerque, the  
14 chairman of the Bernalillo county commission and the president  
15 of the greater Albuquerque chamber of commerce.