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HOUSE MEMORIAL 27

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017

INTRODUCED BY

George Dodge, Jr.

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING SUPPORT FOR AND ENDORSING THE RESILIENCE IN NEW
MEXICO AGRICULTURE TASK FORCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STATEWIDE
STRATEGIC PLAN FOR AGRICULTURAL RESILIENCE.

WHEREAS, the agriculture industry is vital to New Mexico's
economy and culture; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico state university's college of
agricultural, consumer and environmental sciences and New
Mexico first conducted thirteen regional community meetings,
gathering input from stakeholders in the agriculture industry
regarding the most pressing challenges and opportunities facing
the future of agriculture in the state; and

WHEREAS, attendees at the regional meetings found that the
agriculture industry faces challenges from: increasing
competition for scarce water resources; government regulations

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1 and policies inhibiting the success of agricultural operations;
2 an aging farming and ranching population; a need for young and
3 beginning farmers and ranchers to enter the agriculture
4 industry; a lack of in-state agricultural processing
5 facilities; a sometimes negative public perception of the
6 industry; and restrictive federal land management policies and
7 regulations; and

8 WHEREAS, agricultural producers do not set commodity
9 prices, but must instead accept prevailing market prices; and

10 WHEREAS, many farmers and ranchers struggle to sustain a
11 living from their agricultural operations and must often find
12 other ways to supplement their incomes; and

13 WHEREAS, New Mexico ranks first in the nation for children
14 living in food-insecure households, with nearly one-third of
15 the state's children lacking access to adequate, nutritious
16 food; and

17 WHEREAS, an increased amount of New Mexico's needed food
18 could come from local farmers and ranchers, further benefiting
19 the state's economy, environment and access to nutritious food;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, several states have developed statewide
22 agriculture plans to improve food supply and to strengthen
23 farming and ranching industries; and

24 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial for New Mexico to develop
25 a statewide agriculture resiliency plan; and

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1 WHEREAS, the resilience in New Mexico agriculture task
2 force was jointly organized by the New Mexico state university
3 cooperative extension service, New Mexico first and the New
4 Mexico department of agriculture; and

5 WHEREAS, the task force organizers have invited members,
6 including farmers; ranchers; agricultural processors and
7 distributors; cooperative extension professionals; tribal
8 members; university faculty; local and regional food policy
9 council members; charitable foundation representatives; water
10 and natural resources experts; and nonprofit organization
11 representatives and staff from appropriate local, state and
12 government agencies;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
14 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that support and
15 endorsement be expressed for the resilience in New Mexico
16 agriculture task force in the development of a statewide
17 strategic plan for agricultural resilience; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that support and endorsement be
19 extended for the resilience in New Mexico agriculture task
20 force policies of encouraging agricultural infrastructure
21 development, local food production, agricultural innovation,
22 funding opportunities and educational support for young and
23 beginning farmers and ranchers; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
25 develop a strategic statewide agriculture resiliency plan for

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1 future resiliency and job growth in the agricultural sector;
2 and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the statewide agriculture
4 resiliency plan include recommendations and funding priorities
5 developed by the task force to implement the statewide plan;
6 and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
8 present a progress report of strategic plan goals by October 1,
9 2017 to the legislative finance committee and the appropriate
10 interim committees studying economic development and water and
11 natural resources issues; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the director of the New Mexico department of
14 agriculture, the president of New Mexico state university, the
15 board chair of New Mexico first, the chair of the legislative
16 finance committee and the members of the resilience in New
17 Mexico agriculture task force.