

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

SENATE MEMORIAL 87

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

INTRODUCED BY

Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF BUSINESS,
THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE ROBERT WOOD
JOHNSON CENTER FOR HEALTH POLICY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW
MEXICO TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY THE DEMISE OF RURAL
GROCERY STORES AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE TO
HELP REVERSE THIS TREND.

WHEREAS, many independent grocery stores serving small
communities have closed; and

WHEREAS, many customers must travel significant distances
to buy food for their households when, in the past, food could
more easily be found close to their homes; and

WHEREAS, jobs have been lost and communities have lost
places for gatherings and socializing; and

WHEREAS, the center for rural affairs has concluded that

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 two million three hundred thousand Americans live in food
2 deserts, which are areas that are ten or more miles from a
3 grocery store; and

4 WHEREAS, there are nationwide efforts to improve access to
5 locally produced food through Farm to Table; and

6 WHEREAS, New Mexico has a statewide initiative with the
7 W.K. Kellogg foundation to establish healthy communities;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
9 OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico state university college of
10 business, the New Mexico department of agriculture and the
11 Robert Wood Johnson center for health policy at the university
12 of New Mexico be requested to serve as a lead team in convening
13 a statewide working group to study the issue and recommend ways
14 to sustain rural grocery stores, including public-private
15 partnerships; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the lead team inform
17 communities of the importance of supporting local grocery
18 stores, as well as inform communities of the financial and
19 social consequences of the loss of local grocery stores by
20 conducting town hall-style meetings and community dialogues;
21 and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group involve a
23 broad range of stakeholders in the rural grocery initiative and
24 the study, including:

25 A. food policy councils;

.205710.3

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

- 1 B. the New Mexico farm and livestock bureau;
- 2 C. the New Mexico association of counties;
- 3 D. councils of governments;
- 4 E. the Anderson school of management at the
- 5 university of New Mexico;
- 6 F. the economic development department;
- 7 G. New Mexico First;
- 8 H. the New Mexico municipal league;
- 9 I. interested federal agencies, such as the United
- 10 States department of agriculture;
- 11 J. interested non-governmental organizations; and
- 12 K. the Santa Fe community foundation; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group present its
14 findings and recommendations to the appropriate interim
15 committee of the legislature by July 1, 2018; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted electronically to the members of the board of
18 regents of New Mexico state university, the director of the New
19 Mexico department of agriculture and the director of the Robert
20 Wood Johnson center for health policy at the University of New
21 Mexico.