

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

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 15

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018

INTRODUCED BY

Michael Padilla

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK WITH THE PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION, THE FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION, THE BROTHERHOOD OF LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS AND TRAINMEN AND THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SHEET METAL, AIR, RAIL AND TRANSPORTATION WORKERS TRANSPORTATION DIVISION TO REVIEW RAILROAD SAFETY OVERSIGHT IN NEW MEXICO AND DEVELOP A REPORT ON WAYS THAT SAFETY COULD BE ENHANCED BY INCLUDING RAILROAD EMPLOYEES IN THE SAFETY OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

WHEREAS, two of the nation's high-volume, long-haul freight rail lines cross the width of New Mexico: the BNSF southern transcon rail line and the Union Pacific sunset rail line; and

WHEREAS, the BNSF southern transcon rail line moves freight between the Pacific ocean port at Long Beach,

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

1 California, and the shipping and rail hub in Chicago, Illinois,
2 and nearly one hundred trains a day cross New Mexico on this
3 line; and

4 WHEREAS, the sunset rail line moves a rapidly growing
5 freight volume between the Pacific ocean port at Long Beach,
6 California, the freight distribution center at New Mexico's
7 international border at Santa Teresa and various ports on the
8 gulf of Mexico; and

9 WHEREAS, New Mexico has three significant passenger
10 service trains: Amtrak's southwest chief with daily service
11 between Los Angeles, California, and Chicago, Illinois; sunset
12 limited with service three times a week between Los Angeles,
13 California, and New Orleans, Louisiana; and RioMetro's rail
14 runner service between Belen and Santa Fe that runs several
15 times each day; and

16 WHEREAS, New Mexico also has a number of smaller short-
17 haul freight and passenger rail lines; and

18 WHEREAS, there are thousands of miles of railroad track in
19 New Mexico transversing a wide variety of terrain, from steep
20 mountain gradients to unpopulated plains to busy urban streets;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, railways in New Mexico are served by numerous
23 rail stations, loading facilities and depots; and

24 WHEREAS, the federal railroad administration and the
25 public regulation commission have very limited staff resources

.209158.2

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

1 to provide railroad safety oversight; and

2 WHEREAS, there are hundreds of railroad employees that
3 travel over New Mexico's rail tracks or work in the train
4 stations, loading facilities and depots every day; and

5 WHEREAS, there were forty rail safety incidents in New
6 Mexico in 2017, resulting in twenty injuries to railroad
7 employees and three fatalities within the general public; and

8 WHEREAS, rail safety incidents have the potential to cause
9 great harm, as evidenced by the derailment of a passenger train
10 in Tacoma, Washington, in December 2017 and the June 2016
11 collision of two trains near Amarillo, Texas;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
13 OF NEW MEXICO that the department of transportation be
14 requested to work collaboratively with the federal railroad
15 administration, the public regulation commission, the
16 brotherhood of locomotive engineers and trainmen and the
17 international association of sheet metal, air, rail and
18 transportation workers transportation division to evaluate
19 railroad safety oversight in New Mexico and develop a report
20 with proposals to increase the strength and efficiency of that
21 oversight by inclusion of railroad employees in the safety
22 oversight process; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that during its evaluation, the
24 department of transportation receive comments from a wide
25 spectrum of the general public; and

.209158.2

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

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of
2 transportation, the federal railroad administration, the public
3 regulation commission, the brotherhood of locomotive engineers
4 and trainmen and the international association of sheet metal,
5 air, rail and transportation workers transportation division
6 present the railroad safety oversight report to an appropriate
7 legislative interim committee prior to that committee's last
8 meeting in 2018; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
10 transmitted to the secretary of transportation, the public
11 regulation commission, the region five office of the federal
12 railroad administration, the New Mexico representative of the
13 brotherhood of locomotive engineers and trainmen and the New
14 Mexico representative of the international association of sheet
15 metal, air, rail and transportation workers transportation
16 division.