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HOUSE MEMORIAL 49

**54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2020**

INTRODUCED BY

Jack Chatfield

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT UNITED STATES HIGHWAYS 64 AND 87 FROM RATON TO CLAYTON TO THE NEW MEXICO-TEXAS STATE LINE, A PORTION OF THE PORTS-TO-PLAINS CORRIDOR ON THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM, BE DESIGNATED AS A FUTURE FEDERAL INTERSTATE HIGHWAY.

WHEREAS, in 1998, the ports-to-plains corridor was granted federal designation by congress as a high-priority corridor in the national highway system from Laredo, Texas, to Denver, Colorado, via federal interstate highway 27, and in New Mexico generally following United States highways 64 and 87 from Raton to the New Mexico-Texas state line; and

WHEREAS, the ever-increasing importance of global trade, especially between the United States, Mexico and Canada, illustrates the significant need for more north-south routes to connect technology products, energy and food with the greater

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1 marketplace; and

2 WHEREAS, rural multistate highway corridors such as the  
3 ports-to-plains corridor are important to the nation's economy,  
4 defense and mobility, and they help in the delivery of the  
5 food, fuel and fiber, as well as the movement of tourists, that  
6 secures the quality of life of America's great cities and urban  
7 areas; and

8 WHEREAS, with more than one million five hundred thousand  
9 dollars (\$1,500,000) in exports to Mexico, New Mexico's  
10 proximity to El Paso-Juarez is beneficial, but for the fourth  
11 consecutive year, the number one exporting port in the United  
12 States is Laredo, Texas, with forty billion three hundred  
13 million dollars (\$40,300,000,000) in exports; and

14 WHEREAS, the ports-to-plains corridor is important to  
15 energy and agricultural production, international trade and  
16 economic development in the region and provides cost-effective  
17 congestion relief for two gridlocked federal interstate  
18 highways, interstate 25 in Colorado and interstate 35 in Texas;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, New Mexico will always be recognized for its  
21 progressive initiative as the first state in the ports-to-  
22 plains alliance to finish the entire four-lane highway within  
23 its borders, from Raton to the New Mexico-Texas state line on  
24 United States highways 64 and 87, at a cost of more than one  
25 hundred thirty-eight million dollars (\$138,000,000); and

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1           WHEREAS, New Mexico would greatly benefit from a  
2 designated interstate connecting its exports to the busiest  
3 port in the country; and

4           WHEREAS, designation as a future interstate, while  
5 creating a vision for the future, does not create any specific  
6 time lines for states to construct the interstate highway;

7           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
8 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it request the  
9 United States congress to designate that portion of the ports-  
10 to-plains corridor, United States highways 64 and 87 between  
11 Raton, New Mexico, and the New Mexico-Texas state line, as a  
12 future federal interstate highway; and

13           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
14 transmitted to the president of the United States, the federal  
15 secretary of transportation, members of New Mexico's  
16 congressional delegation, the governors of New Mexico, Montana,  
17 Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado,  
18 Oklahoma and Texas and the New Mexico secretary of  
19 transportation.