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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO STUDY THE
FEASIBILITY OF IMPLEMENTING A BORDER CROSSING FEE AT THE
SANTA TERESA PORT OF ENTRY; REQUESTING A REPORT.

WHEREAS, the department of transportation is responsible
for the planning, development and maintenance of
transportation infrastructure that supports public safety,
economic development and regional mobility; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Teresa port of entry is one of the
fastest-growing international commercial crossings in the
United States and serves as a major economic gateway
connecting southern New Mexico to the state of Chihuahua,
Mexico, and the broader North American supply chain; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Teresa port of entry supports
international trade, warehousing, logistics, manufacturing,
agriculture and rail activity, generating significant
economic activity and heavy commercial traffic in Dona Ana
county and the surrounding region; and

WHEREAS, increased freight movement produces substantial
wear and maintenance demands on state highways, local roads
and supporting infrastructure serving the port of entry,
including pavement, intersections, safety improvements and
capacity upgrades; and

WHEREAS, continued growth of international trade through

1 the Santa Teresa port of entry will require long-term
2 sustainable funding sources to maintain and expand
3 transportation infrastructure necessary to protect public
4 safety and economic competitiveness; and

5 WHEREAS, many transportation systems throughout the
6 United States and internationally employ user-based funding
7 mechanisms to offset infrastructure costs directly associated
8 with high-volume freight corridors and border crossings; and

9 WHEREAS, a carefully structured border crossing user fee
10 could provide a dedicated funding stream for infrastructure
11 improvements, congestion reduction, safety enhancements and
12 trade facilitation projects benefiting residents, businesses
13 and commercial carriers; and

14 WHEREAS, before consideration of any policy, the state
15 should evaluate legal authority, interstate commerce
16 considerations, international treaty implications,
17 operational logistics, economic competitiveness impacts and
18 administrative feasibility;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
20 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the
21 department of transportation be requested to conduct a
22 comprehensive study regarding the feasibility of implementing
23 a border crossing user fee at the Santa Teresa port of entry;
24 and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of

1 transportation's border crossing fee study evaluate:

2 A. the legal and constitutional authority for a
3 state-imposed border crossing fee;

4 B. the coordination with federal agencies,
5 including United States customs and border protection,
6 required to impose a border crossing fee;

7 C. the impacts of a border crossing fee on New
8 Mexico's trade competitiveness relative to other states with
9 border crossings with Mexico;

10 D. potential border crossing fee structure options
11 for commercial and noncommercial traffic and the estimated
12 annual revenue generation and administrative costs of such
13 fee structures;

14 E. the economic impacts a border crossing fee
15 would have on industry and the workforce in the Santa Teresa
16 region;

17 F. the transportation infrastructure needs
18 attributable to traffic from the Santa Teresa port of entry
19 anticipated over the next twenty years; and

20 G. options to dedicate either border crossing fee
21 or other revenues to road maintenance, safety improvements
22 and capacity expansion in the Santa Teresa trade corridor;
23 and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study, the
25 department of transportation be requested to consult with

1 local governments, metropolitan planning organizations,
2 economic development organizations, industry stakeholders,
3 federal agencies and New Mexico's congressional delegation;
4 and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a report of findings and
6 recommendations be presented to the appropriate interim
7 legislative committee by November 1, 2026; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
9 transmitted to the secretary of transportation, the governor,
10 the border authority and local governments within Dona Ana
11 county. _____

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