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HOUSE MEMORIAL 66

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026

INTRODUCED BY

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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,

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1 agriculture and rail activity, generating significant economic
2 activity and heavy commercial traffic in Dona Ana county and
3 the surrounding region; and

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

9 WHEREAS, continued growth of international trade through
10 the Santa Teresa port of entry will require long-term
11 sustainable funding sources to maintain and expand
12 transportation infrastructure necessary to protect public
13 safety and economic competitiveness; and

14 WHEREAS, many transportation systems throughout the United
15 States and internationally employ user-based funding mechanisms
16 to offset infrastructure costs directly associated with high-
17 volume freight corridors and border crossings; and

18 WHEREAS, a carefully structured border crossing user fee
19 could provide a dedicated funding stream for infrastructure
20 improvements, congestion reduction, safety enhancements and
21 trade facilitation projects benefiting residents, businesses
22 and commercial carriers; and

23 WHEREAS, before consideration of any policy, the state
24 should evaluate legal authority, interstate commerce
25 considerations, international treaty implications, operational

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1 logistics, economic competitiveness impacts and administrative
2 feasibility;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
4 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department
5 of transportation be requested to conduct a comprehensive study
6 regarding the feasibility of implementing a border crossing
7 user fee at the Santa Teresa port of entry; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of
9 transportation's border crossing fee study evaluate:

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

12 B. the coordination with federal agencies,
13 including United States customs and border protection, required
14 to impose a border crossing fee;

15 C. the impacts of a border crossing fee on New
16 Mexico's trade competitiveness relative to other states with
17 border crossings with Mexico;

18 D. potential border crossing fee structure options
19 for commercial and noncommercial traffic and the estimated
20 annual revenue generation and administrative costs of such fee
21 structures;

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

24 F. the transportation infrastructure needs
25 attributable to traffic from the Santa Teresa port of entry

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1 anticipated over the next twenty years; and

2 G. options to dedicate either border crossing fee
3 or other revenues to road maintenance, safety improvements and
4 capacity expansion in the Santa Teresa trade corridor; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study, the
6 department of transportation be requested to consult with local
7 governments, metropolitan planning organizations, economic
8 development organizations, industry stakeholders, federal
9 agencies and New Mexico's congressional delegation; and

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

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
14 transmitted to the secretary of transportation, the governor,
15 the border authority and local governments within Dona Ana
16 county.