

**MINUTES**  
**of the**  
**SIXTH MEETING**  
**of the**  
**ECONOMIC AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**  
**AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

**November 13-15, 2006**  
**Rio Rancho, New Mexico**  
**Santa Fe, New Mexico**

The sixth meeting of the Economic and Rural Development and Telecommunications Committee for the 2006 interim was called to order by Representative Mary Helen Garcia, chair, on Monday, November 13, 2006, at 10:04 a.m. at the Santa Ana Star Center in Rio Rancho.

**Present**

Rep. Mary Helen Garcia, Chair  
Sen. Bernadette M. Sanchez, Vice Chair (11/13, 11/14)  
Rep. Hector H. Balderas (11/13, 11/14)  
Rep. Jose A. Campos  
Rep. Daniel R. Foley (11/13, 11/15)  
Sen. Mary Jane M. Garcia  
Rep. Dianne Miller Hamilton  
Sen. Clinton D. Harden, Jr.  
Sen. Carroll H. Leavell (11/14, 11/15)  
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom  
Sen. Richard C. Martinez  
Rep. Kathy A. McCoy (11/13, 11/14)  
Rep. Andy Nunez  
Sen. William E. Sharer (11/14, 11/15)  
Sen. Leonard Tsosie (11/14, 11/15)

**Absent**

Sen. John Pinto

**Advisory Members**

Rep. Ernest H. Chavez  
Sen. Dianna J. Duran  
Rep. John A. Heaton (11/14, 11/15)  
Rep. Ted Hobbs  
Sen. Steven P. Neville (11/15)  
Rep. Al Park (11/13, 11/14)  
Sen. Lidio G. Rainaldi (11/15)  
Rep. Debbie A. Rodella (11/13)  
Sen. John C. Ryan  
Rep. Richard D. Vigil (11/14)

Sen. Phil A. Griego  
Sen. Stuart Ingle  
Sen. Timothy Z. Jennings  
Sen. Shannon Robinson  
Rep. Harriet I. Ruiz

**Visitors**

Speaker Ben Lujan (11/14)  
Rep. Luciano "Lucky" Varela (11/14)

(Attendance dates are noted for those members not present for the entire meeting.)

### **Staff**

Charles H. Van Gorder  
Gordon Meeks  
Kate Ferlic  
Larry Matlock

### **Guests**

The guest list is in the meeting file.

### **Handouts**

Copies of all handouts and written testimony are in the meeting file.

## **Monday, November 13**

### **Welcome**

Rio Rancho Mayor Kevin Jackson and Rio Rancho City Manager Jim Palanick welcomed the committee to Rio Rancho and the new Santa Ana Star Center. The new center was completed approximately three weeks ago, has already hosted a number of events and is the home of a professional hockey team. The center was completed on time and within budget. The center was not built with state funds but the city appreciates the fact that the legislature permitted the city to raise its gross receipts tax in the past to pay for the center, thus helping Rio Rancho to help itself. Similarly, the increase in state film tax credits helped the city to finalize a deal with Lion's Gate to build a studio in Rio Rancho. The city is looking for the legislature to approve a rise in gross receipts taxes to assist with four-year colleges in Rio Rancho.

### **Payday Lending Legislation**

Senator Sanchez introduced a draft of her proposed payday legislation for the 2007 legislative session. This topic has been considered by the legislature every year for the past few years. The principal problems with the payday loan industry are the high annual percentage rate (APR) charged for interest and unlimited rollovers. The bill proposed by Senator Sanchez follows the federal legislation signed by President Bush on September 30, 2006 regulating consumer loans to members of the military and their dependents. The bill proposed by Senator Sanchez would extend to all New Mexicans the protections given by Congress to members of the military and their dependents. The proposed bill includes the following points: 1) it applies to consumer loans taken out by any New Mexican, not just members of the military and their dependents; 2) it applies to all consumer loans, including car title loans, income tax anticipation loans and payday loans; 3) it caps interest rates to 36 percent APR (including all fees and charges, credit insurance premiums and other ancillary charges); 4) it specifically prohibits a lender from securing a consumer loan with a personal check, debit authorization, wage allotment

or title to a vehicle; 5) it limits allowable late or delinquency fees (\$10.00 or \$.05 per dollar); 6) it prohibits renewals, rollovers or refinancing; 7) it requires certain disclosures, including interest rates and payment obligations, before a loan is made; and 8) it establishes penalties, including no right of collection of principal or interest, utilization of the Fair Practices Act for enforcement and criminal penalties as a gross misdemeanor. Senator Sanchez then compared the scenario should a consumer enter into a payday loan under the bill recently suggested by Representative Lundstrom with the scenario under the approach suggested in Senator Sanchez's bill. Senator Sanchez indicated this is a social justice issue; all New Mexicans should have the same protections given to the military and their dependents by Congress. Senator Sanchez suggested that if the committee could not endorse her proposal because it was still in a draft form, the committee should hold off on endorsing any payday lending legislation.

Following questions from the committee to Senator Sanchez, Representative Lundstrom, assisted by Ed Lopez, superintendent of Regulation and Licensing, and Bill Verant, director of the Financial Institutions Division of the Regulation and Licensing Department, presented a payday lending bill proposed by the administration. The proposed bill is similar to House Judiciary Committee Substitute for House Bill 409 in the 2006 legislative session and reflects many of the provisions of the rules adopted and promulgated by the Regulation and Licensing Department earlier this year. Representative Lundstrom reviewed the salient points of her proposed bill and how it differs from the bill that died on the floor of the senate the last morning of the 2006 legislative session. Superintendent Lopez indicated it is the administration's position that the payday lending industry should be retained as an available resource for New Mexicans. Mr. Verant reviewed the history and growth of the payday lending industry in New Mexico over the past few years. Following questions and comments by members of the committee, upon a motion by Senator Martinez, seconded by Senator Garcia, the voting members of the committee voted 9-1, with Senator Sanchez opposed, to endorse the payday lending legislation proposed by Representative Lundstrom on behalf of the administration for the 2007 legislative session.

### **Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Outreach**

Barbara Stoller, director of the SBIR Outreach Program, briefed the committee on the Program's impact on New Mexico's economy. She explained to the committee the SBIR Outreach Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program (STTR). The SBIR is a set-aside program for small business concerns to engage in federal research and development with potential for commercialization. The STTR is a set-aside program to facilitate cooperative research and development between small business concerns and federal research institutions with potential for commercialization. In passing the Small Business Innovation Development Act of 1982, Congress designated four major goals: 1) stimulate technological innovation; 2) use small businesses to meet federal research and development needs; 3) foster and encourage participation by minorities and disadvantaged persons in technological innovation; and 4) increase private sector commercialization innovations derived from federal research and development. Forty-five percent of New Mexico's high-tech firms started with SBIR funds. Both SBIR and STTR have a three-phase program. Phase I involves a feasibility study and includes \$100,000 for either six months (SBIR) or 12 months (STTR). Phase II involves full research and development and includes two-year awards for either \$750,000 (SBIR) or \$500,000 (STTR). Phase III is the

commercialization and does not involve the use of SBIR funds. Ms. Stoller reviewed the eligibility checkpoints for the SBIR Outreach Program and the critical differences between the SBIR and STTR programs. She also reviewed the total number of grants under each program for the years 2000 through 2004 (totaling \$112,620,000) and three of the companies that received such grants.

After questions and comments from committee members, upon a motion by Representative Lundstrom, seconded by Senator Ryan, the committee voted without opposition to endorse an appropriation in the amount of \$250,000 to support the SBIR Outreach Program.

### **Minutes**

Upon a motion by Senator Martinez, seconded by Representative Lundstrom, the minutes of the committee's September and October 2006 meetings were unanimously approved.

### **New Mexico Manufacturing Extension Partnership**

Carol Ann Sanchez, president of the New Mexico Manufacturing Extension Partnership (Partnership), and Michael Randolph, director of business development, briefed the committee on the activities of the Partnership. The Partnership is part of a national network serving small to medium-sized manufacturers with on-staff engineers. The Partnership's clients have reported \$69 million in total sales impact, \$34.3 million in cost savings and investments and 1,730 jobs created or retained. In the first three quarters of 2006, the Partnership's clients have reported \$19.2 million in total sales impact, \$4.6 million in cost savings and investments and 248 jobs created or retained. Thus far in 2006, the Partnership has served 115 clients throughout the state. The Partnership's staff has grown from five to 15 employees and it recently opened offices in Las Cruces and Roswell. Ms. Sanchez and Mr. Randolph reviewed a number of projects where the Partnership has assisted its clients. Ms. Sanchez reviewed the history of financial support the Partnership has received over the years, both from the state and the federal government. The Partnership is seeking increased support from the state in fiscal year 2008 in the amount of \$1.3 million, all of which will be used to subsidize client projects and not to pay Partnership overhead costs.

After questions and comments from committee members, upon a motion by Representative Campos, seconded by Senator Sanchez, the committee voted without opposition, but with Representative Nunez abstaining, to endorse an appropriation in the amount of \$1.3 million in matching funds to provide support for projects of the Partnership.

### **WESST Corp Enterprise Center**

Agnes Noonan, executive director of the Women's Economic Self-Sufficiency Team (WESST Corp), stated that WESST Corp is a small business incubator project whose mission is helping people start businesses. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit economic development organization, WESST Corp has, since its inception in 1989, assisted more than 1,850 businesses and helped create more than 2,600 jobs. It has run the individual development account program in Bernalillo County for the past three years. It was one of nine organizations in the country to receive a grant from the Ms. Foundation to assist companies in improving their presence on the

internet. WESST Corp has offices in Albuquerque, Gallup, Las Cruces, Roswell and Santa Fe, and will soon be opening an office in Rio Rancho.

Belinda Jentzen, director of development for WESST Corp, briefed the committee on the new headquarters to be built in Albuquerque in 2007. The 36,600 square foot, two-story building will headquarter WESST Corp and provide space for up to 30 new businesses. The construction cost is estimated at \$8.4 million, of which \$6.0 million has been raised (including a \$1.25 million grant from the federal Economic Development Administration, \$3 million in state funds and \$1 million in private funds). Ms. Jentzen said the building has been designed to meet energy-efficient Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) guidelines at the silver level, as established by the United States Green Building Council. Ms. Jentzen explained what goes into making a building LEED-certified. The City of Albuquerque has taken over ownership of the building in order to accommodate grant requirements. Ms. Jentzen then explained several of the businesses that WESST Corp has assisted.

Carol Radosevitch, WESST Corp board member, reviewed past legislative support for business incubators, including certification legislation and capital outlay appropriations. There will be a request for both operating and capital outlay funds.

Questions and comments by committee members concerned requirements and costs of a LEED-certified building, certification, the need for operating funds, areas served by WESST Corp and the types of clients assisted by WESST Corp.

### **Eminent Domain**

J.D. Bullington and John Salazar, Esq., co-chairs of the Governor's Task Force on the Responsible Use of Eminent Domain by State and Local Governments, briefed the committee on the work of the task force and the report to the governor dated November 9, 2006. Mr. Bullington reviewed the establishment of the task force by executive order of the governor, the membership of the task force, the methodology followed by the task force in its deliberations, including opportunity for public comment, the essence of the *Kelo* decision handed down by the United States Supreme Court in 2005 validating the use of eminent domain for private development to foster economic development and the varying responses of states to the *Kelo* decision.

Mr. Salazar then reviewed the current New Mexico statutes regarding the use of eminent domain for economic development. Local governments have the unique authority to designate special economic development, renewal or revitalization areas within municipalities and to exercise the power of eminent domain in those areas. The Metropolitan Redevelopment Act, Urban Development Law and Community Development Law permit local governments to rehabilitate areas that have fallen into disrepair or become overridden by crime or violence, although the latter two statutes are seldom used. Mr. Salazar reviewed the mechanics of the Metropolitan Redevelopment Act and metropolitan redevelopment projects in New Mexico. In Rio Rancho, that act was used to address problems related to historical subdivision platting.

The task force made the following recommendations to the governor:

- 1) repeal the Urban Renewal Law and the Community Development Law (unanimous);
- 2) remove eminent domain authority from the Metropolitan Redevelopment Act (majority 10-7 vote);
- 3) combine and tighten the definition of "slum" and "blight area" (14-3 vote);
- 4) increase notice and hearing requirements of the Metropolitan Redevelopment Act (unanimous);
- 5) require relocation and transition assistance for displaced property owners (unanimous);
- 6) repeal Section 3-60A-6 NMSA 1978 of the Metropolitan Redevelopment Act (unanimous);
- 7) delete the term "conservation" from the Metropolitan Redevelopment Act (unanimous); and
- 8) change the contents of the Metropolitan Redevelopment Act by deleting the term "maximum" from Section 3-60A-9(C)(4) NMSA 1978 of that act.

A seven-member minority of the task force voted to retain the power to use eminent domain pursuant to the Metropolitan Redevelopment Act but recommended adding the following language to Section 3-60A-11 NMSA 1978: "No public agency authorized to condemn property under this act shall condemn private property for economic development purposes, except for the eradication of slum and blight as defined in this act".

Questions and comments from committee members concerned the reasons why the governor vetoed the eminent domain bill passed by the legislature in 2006, just compensation, the definitions of "slum" and "blighted", a rural focus on community development, uniform funding applications, the situation with land platting in Rio Rancho, members of the task force who voted for the minority report and the proposed definition of "slum" and the proposed formulation of a metropolitan redevelopment plan.

The meeting was recessed by Representative Garcia at 3:05 p.m. for a tour of the "Wild Fire" television set.

### **Tuesday, November 14**

The meeting was reconvened by Representative Garcia on Tuesday, November 14, 2006, at 9:10 a.m. in the State Capitol.

### **Empowering Business Spirit Initiative**

A number of speakers presented different economic development initiatives serving a variety of communities statewide. Christina McCandless, program manager for the Regional Development Corporation (RDC), explained some of the challenges of servicing small businesses in rural New Mexico. The RDC assists New Mexico communities and industry in managing their economic development projects and initiatives. To demonstrate these challenges, the RDC created a "continuum of service" analysis that breaks down stages of business development from start-up to going public. The analysis allows the RDC to identify gaps in the services it provides and decipher the stage in which businesses fail. Ms. McCandless explained that there are large gaps in youth preparation and technical assistance in the second stage, when a business begins to develop growth needs, including new employees.

Barbara Deaux, executive director for the North Central New Mexico Economic Development District (NCNMEDD), announced the organization's receipt of a \$2 million Kellogg grant over three years for projects in a seven-county area, including Taos, Mora, Rio Arriba and San Miguel counties. The money is disbursed based on a single loan fund form and planning decisions are client-focused rather than grant-driven. The prominent spending issues, however, are how to make strategic investments and create a community that collaborates in problem solving. Ms. Deaux asked legislators for matching funds to improve the Espanola Valley Fibre Arts Centre, which aims to preserve and promote the rich textile heritage of northern New Mexico. From the client perspective, rural New Mexicans simply need reliable infrastructure for their businesses to succeed, including paved roads, trash pickups and broadband availability.

A representative from WESST Corp shared some success stories from its initiative, which aims to facilitate the start-up and growth of women- and minority-owned businesses throughout the state by providing consulting, training and loans. For example, Alexis Trujillo, an 11-year-old Espanola entrepreneur, described her "faithrocks" business and gave the legislators some of her products. WESST Corp helped Alexis to create a web site and market her painted stones around the world. Paul Romero, representative from Northern New Mexico Enlace, hosted "View into the Future", a business development class for students. Mr. Romero announced that the biggest potential upcoming project is the Rio Grande Chile initiative, where anyone with land can learn to farm ancestral seeds. This project is a reaction to the patent controversy caused by the Chimayo Chile name.

### **Telecommunications Issues and Internet Training**

John Badal, CEO of Sacred Wind Communications, Inc., summarized the mission and activities of Sacred Wind Communications, a rural telecommunications company that services the Navajo Nation. Sacred Wind has administrative offices in Albuquerque and warehouses in both Bloomfield and Grants. The company operates on a business model that relies on federal assistance, which the company qualifies for as a rural telecom. In the past, Qwest had attempted to provide services to the Navajo Nation but could not receive similar assistance. As a result, Qwest lost money on every customer it served. Sacred Wind acquired much of Qwest's

telephone operations. Sacred Wind began with \$2 million to navigate the regulatory process and design engineering. In September, Sacred Wind received approval on a \$70 million loan, most of which will be allocated to hardware for 6,000 unserved homes on the Navajo Nation. Less than 40 percent of homes have phone service and less than 50 percent of those homes have internet access. Mr. Badal asked the committee to sponsor a \$628,000 appropriation to staff and establish two mobile internet sites for use on the Navajo Nation. The mobile internet sites would be housed in trailers, provide computer training, teach PC literacy and establish a culturally friendly ISP. Some legislators are concerned about anti-donation problems. In order to avoid this, the \$628,000 would be appropriated to the Indian Affairs Department.

### **Los Alamos/Sandia Small Business Program**

Mariann Johnston of Los Alamos National Laboratory's (LANL) Community Programs Office, expressed LANL's desire to participate in the small business program beginning in 2007 with the goal to cultivate collaboration between Sandia National Laboratories and LANL. She asked the committee to sponsor legislation increasing the available tax credit from \$1.8 million to \$2.4 million per eligible national lab.

### **New Mexico Business Incubator Advisory Committee — Update**

Marie Longserre, president of Santa Fe Business Incubator (SFBI), and Senator Leavell presented an appropriations request for \$750,000 to the Economic Development Department (EDD) to operate certified business incubators throughout the state. Ms. Longserre requested that the proposed bill limit the amount of money a single incubator can receive to \$150,000. She summarized the role of incubators in New Mexico as "mixed-use" and described the incubator's involvement in enterprises, LANL, arts and crafts, etc. The SFBI is housed in a 30,000 square foot facility on the south side of Santa Fe and has 19 recognized agency and organizational partners. It is one of two certified incubators in northern New Mexico.

### **Regulation of Generation and Transmission Cooperatives**

Luis Reyes, general manager of the Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, briefed the committee on tension between Tri-State and individual cooperatives. Tri-State is a wholesaler of electric power owned by the 44 cooperatives it serves, 12 of which are located in New Mexico. Tri-State is opposed to legislation regulating rates, arguing that the process is currently reasonable and transparent. The company generates power at lower-than-market-rate prices. When the company cannot generate enough power, it must pay market price. Tri-State submits that cooperatives set rates for their individual consumers. Tri-State argues that heavier regulations increase the costs of Tri-State's credit, which will be passed on as rates increase. Independent cooperatives opposed to regulation argue that self-regulation works and that rural customers are paying far less than they were 10 years ago. Eleven of the 12 cooperatives within Tri-State are opposed to the regulations.

Kit Carson Electric Cooperative is leading the effort to regulate. In 2000, the Kit Carson Electric Cooperative became a member of Tri-State. Since its membership, rates have increased five times. The rate increases are falling on residential clients. Mr. Reyes described Tri-State as an unregulated monopoly and advocated for Public Regulation Commission (PRC) oversight.

Currently, Kit Carson has a contract with Tri-State until 2024. Mr. Reyes alleges that any electric cooperative that does not sign a long contract gets a higher rate. He believes it is not in the best interest of New Mexico to be subject to rate discrimination, but does not oppose equal rate increases. Some consumers in attendance argued that regulations simply justify Tri-State's rates and promote open government. The proposed bill requires an independent study be submitted to the PRC when rate increases occur. The PRC, according to a letter from Chair Ben Ray Lujan, encouraged the committee to create additional oversight to create more transparency and moderate the rate increases. Currently, the PRC has no authority to investigate Tri-State's estimates and financial reports.

### **Effectiveness of Tax Incentive Policies**

Kelly O'Donnell, deputy secretary of economic development, distributed a presentation on creating a business friendly climate, focusing on tax incentives and the anti-donation clause. She explained that current data disclosure is limited, but a statutory change could allow the Taxation and Revenue Department to release data on the effectiveness of incentives. Based on the information disclosed, the report demonstrates that both the rural jobs tax credit and high-wage jobs tax credit are powerful. However, to analyze success, the EDD needs data on the jobs created when the business applies for the credit. Ms. O'Donnell requested that the committee consider statutory changes for plans to collect data, specify what data should be collected, create penalties for misreporting and give subpoena power to the EDD. On the flip side, the danger of allowing disclosure of proprietary data is that new competitors may gain an advantage.

### **Uranium Mining — State Update**

A group representing the mining industry, John Indall, George Byers and Juan Velasquez, presented plans for uranium mining in New Mexico and the direction of the industry. Currently, the industry does not mine in New Mexico. However, over the last two years, mining companies have focused on exploration. The industry plans to add 4,000 mining jobs to New Mexico and 3,000 support jobs with milling operations. The industry plans on making capital investments of an estimated \$100 million.

Star Gonzales, executive director of Cibola County Economic Development, briefed the committee on benefits the uranium industry would bring to Cibola County, including jobs and money for hospitals and schools. Ms. Gonzales expects Cibola County to experience another boom should the industry decide to bring business. Legislators expressed concern about the boom-bust cycle that ultimately creates a community of displaced workers like the situation in Grants. Legislators discussed the hopeful future of energy policy and the focus on nuclear energy.

The meeting was recessed by Representative Garcia at 5:28 p.m.

### **Wednesday, November 15**

The meeting was reconvened by Representative Garcia on Wednesday, November 15, 2006, at 9:10 a.m. in the State Capitol.

## **Economic Development Department — Legislative Update**

Secretary of Economic Development Rick Homans addressed the committee, thanking it for its support during the last four years. He referred to the high-wage jobs tax credit and to the rural jobs tax credit and the three-year tax holiday for high-tech start-ups. In summarizing some of the other legislation enacted in recent years, he mentioned the economic development partnership and the State Investment Office's investments in New Mexico companies designed to create jobs. He gave the committee copies of the EDD's annual report. Summarizing the report, he talked about the status of the certified communities and the Main Street programs, and the results of the SMART Money Program of the New Mexico Finance Authority. A new program, called "Homefield Advantage" is a program focusing on statewide retention and expansion of existing businesses. It consists of a team of department employees who work in a partnership with nonprofits and other state agencies that provide specific assistance programs to existing businesses, he said. These programs include the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), small business development centers and business support programs through Sandia National Laboratories and LANL. He also mentioned the workforce training and development program that is striving to align public education, higher education and the many training programs with the state's economic development goals. There is also the Rural Action Economic Partnership, an interagency group that meets monthly to review projects and to coordinate support.

He explained that several major initiatives include efforts to build a spaceport and develop a space industry in New Mexico. Capitalizing on New Mexico's air space and aviation resources, he mentioned the administration's efforts to support Eclipse Aviation, LoPresti Aviation, Virgin Galactic, Starchaser and the X-Prize Cup. He discussed progress in attracting filmmakers and digital media enterprises, referring to the construction in Albuquerque of studios and sound stages. Renewable energy, he said, is another area the department is pursuing, including Advent Solar and why there are dozens of projects taking place all over the state in the fields of biofuels, hydrogen fuel cells, solar energy and wind power. He closed by describing efforts to foster technology transfer from the universities and national laboratories to stimulate jobs in fields such as optics, lasers, information technology, nanotechnology and microsystems. He said the department is working to advance these newer industries while still trying to help the smallest and most threatened communities retain banks or credit unions. He said efforts to retain and encourage traditional industries have not been forgotten, either. He cited Union Pacific investing about \$2 million just west of Santa Teresa to build a fueling station, block swap yard and an intermodal facility and Southwest Cheese opening a \$225 million facility, the largest cheddar cheese plant in North America, in Clovis.

Questions and discussion from committee members addressed:

- a \$1.69 million request in the department's budget;
- \$1.41 million for the partnership;
- the status of the spaceport;
- the committee's tour of the Wildfire television series set;
- the international trade office presence in Asia and Europe;
- the partnership expansion request;

- the study for potential reuse of the Pittsburgh and Midway Coal Mine facilities near Gallup;
- rural community assistance; and
- the need for more electric transmission capacity.

### **Legislative Endorsements**

The committee considered and voted on endorsing the following legislation for the 2007 legislative session:

Representative Foley moved and Senator Garcia seconded that the committee endorse a bill amending the Public Utility Act (202.163646.1) that will be sponsored by Representative Heaton. The motion passed unanimously.

Senator Harden moved and Representative Nunez seconded that the committee endorse a bill restricting the role of the state in activities related to WIRE New Mexico (202.163726.2) that will be sponsored by Representative Campos. The motion passed with Senator Sharer in opposition.

Representative Heaton moved and Senator Garcia seconded that the committee endorse a bill regarding tax credits for laboratory partnerships (202.163475.1) that will be sponsored by Senator Michael S. Sanchez. The motion passed unanimously.

Senator Garcia moved and Representative Lundstrom seconded that the committee endorse both bills enacting versions of a Surface Owners Protection Act (202.163342.2 and 202.163394.1). Following discussion, Representative Foley moved and Representative Hamilton seconded a substitute motion that the committee endorse neither bill. The substitute motion passed with Senator Harden in opposition.

Representative Campos moved and Representative Foley seconded that the committee endorse a bill amending the Family Opportunities Act (202.164013.2) that will be sponsored by Representative Garcia. The motion passed unanimously.

Representative Foley moved and Senator Garcia seconded a motion that the committee endorse an appropriation bill in the amount of \$7 million to support the chile industry (202.163811.1) that will be sponsored by Representative Garcia. The motion passed unanimously.

Representative Foley moved and Senator Garcia seconded a motion that the committee endorse an appropriation bill in the amount of \$5 million for improvements to Red Rock State Park (202.163835.1) that will be sponsored by Senator Pinto and Representative Lundstrom. The motion passed unanimously.

Representative Foley moved and Senator Garcia seconded a motion that the committee endorse an appropriation bill in the amount of \$600,000 for the cooperative advertising program

of the EDD (202.163834.1) that will be sponsored by Senator Garcia and Representative Lundstrom. The motion passed unanimously.

Representative Foley moved and Senator Garcia seconded a motion that the committee endorse an appropriation bill in the amount of \$250,000 for a farmers' market program for nutritionally at-risk and low-income senior citizens (202.163451.1) that will be sponsored by Senator Ben D. Altamirano. The motion passed unanimously.

Representative Foley moved and Senator Garcia seconded a motion that the committee endorse an appropriation bill in the amount of \$750,000 for certified business incubators (202.164030.1) that will be sponsored by Senator Leavell. The motion passed unanimously.

Representative Foley moved and Senator Garcia seconded a motion that the committee endorse an appropriation bill in the amount of \$12 million for the Technology Research Collaborative (202.164016.1) that will be sponsored by Senator Cisneros and Representative Salazar. The motion passed unanimously.

Representative Foley moved and Senator Garcia seconded a motion that the committee endorse an appropriation bill in the amount of \$1.3 million for manufacturing extension services (202.164018.1) that will be sponsored by Senator Garcia. The motion passed unanimously.

Senator Garcia moved and Senator Sharer seconded a motion that the committee endorse an appropriation bill in the amount of \$628,000 for an internet training program for chapters of the Navajo Nation in New Mexico (202.164034.1, as amended) that will be sponsored by Senator Bernadette M. Sanchez. The motion passed unanimously.

Representative Foley moved and Representative Campos seconded a motion that the committee endorse an appropriation bill in the amount of \$250,000 for SBIR outreach programs that will be sponsored by Senator Ryan and Representative Foley. The motion passed unanimously.

Representative Foley moved and Representative Garcia seconded a motion that the committee endorse a house joint memorial to be sponsored by Representative Herrera that will request the appointment of a task force to study and propose a pilot project to increase access to healthy foods for rural New Mexicans. It was agreed that the final language would be approved by the committee chair and vice chair. The motion passed with Senator Sharer and Representative Foley opposed.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the committee, the sixth meeting of the Economic and Rural Development and Telecommunications Committee for the 2006 interim was adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

