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SENATE MEMORIAL 49

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008

INTRODUCED BY

Linda M. Lopez

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO APPOINT A
COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE NEED FOR AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS AND
REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ASSIST
IN THE STUDY.

WHEREAS, farming and ranching are the lifeblood of New
Mexico, with centuries upon centuries of Native American,
Hispanic and Anglo families making their living and their lives
from the land; and

WHEREAS, agriculture is vital to New Mexico's economy,
environment and culture and it is important to conserve,
protect, encourage, develop and improve agricultural land for
the production of agricultural products and to reduce the loss
to the state of its agricultural resources by limiting the
conversion of farmland or ranchland to development; and

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1 WHEREAS, in many parts of the state, agricultural
2 resources are in danger from urban pressures, such as land
3 being taken out of production for development and agricultural
4 water rights being sold for urban uses; and

5 WHEREAS, thousands of agricultural acres each year are
6 prematurely or unnecessarily converted to urban uses and farms
7 and ranches are impinged upon by urban sprawl; and

8 WHEREAS, as urban centers expand, the resulting increase
9 in land values discourages investments in farm and ranch
10 improvements;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
12 OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council be
13 requested to appoint an interim committee to study the need to
14 protect agricultural resources in New Mexico through the
15 creation of agricultural districts, the use of conservation
16 easements, the limiting of eminent domain powers and other
17 methods; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico department of
19 agriculture be requested to assist the committee in its study;
20 and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee report its
22 findings and recommendations to the first session of the forty-
23 ninth legislature; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
25 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative

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council.