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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 22
49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY
Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales

A JOINT MEMORIAL
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO STUDY THE
FEASIBILITY OF EXTENDING THE RAIL RUNNER EXPRESS FROM SANTA FE
TO TAOS.

WHEREAS, the "Rail Runner Express" is a commuter rail
service that runs between Belen and Santa Fe carrying people to
work, stores, entertainment and tourist attractions; and

WHEREAS, to date, two phases of the Rail Runner Express
have been completed, and the availability of this commuter
option has reduced the burden on commuters of skyrocketing
gasoline prices; and

WHEREAS, phase one extended commuter rail service from
Belen to the town of Bernalillo in July 2006; and

WHEREAS, phase two extended commuter rail service from
Bernalillo to Santa Fe, completing the entire route from Belen

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1 to Santa Fe in December 2008; and

2 WHEREAS, the residents of Taos would like to see the Rail
3 Runner Express extended even farther north to provide commuter
4 rail service to Taos and the towns in between; and

5 WHEREAS, the Rail Runner Express has met with great
6 enthusiasm and has been heavily patronized by commuters who
7 work in Albuquerque but live in outlying communities and by
8 commuters who work in Santa Fe and live in other communities;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
10 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of transportation be
11 requested to complete a feasibility study to determine possible
12 routes, optimum frequency of trips and potential costs of
13 extending the Rail Runner Express from Santa Fe to Taos; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study should create plans
15 that can be set into action to maximize the use of possible
16 funds that the federal government may make available in the
17 future for public transit systems; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that those plans should also
19 consider the need to ease the congestion on state highways
20 running from Taos in northern New Mexico to Las Cruces in
21 southern New Mexico to reduce the need for expansion of
22 highways and the costs of maintaining those highways; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the feasibility study, when
24 complete, be presented to appropriate legislative interim
25 committees by November 2010 and that a copy be submitted to the

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1 library of the legislative council service; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
3 transmitted to the secretary-designate of transportation and
4 the governor.

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