

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 27

2 49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE STATE FAIR COMMISSION TO CONSIDER SUPPORTING A
12 PERMANENT YEAR-ROUND FARMERS' MARKET ON A PORTION OF THE STATE
13 FAIRGROUNDS.

14
15 WHEREAS, a farmers' market is a public market at which
16 primarily farmers, producers and other vendors from a local
17 area sell fresh produce, meats and other agricultural products
18 directly to consumers; and

19 WHEREAS, a farmers' market promotes environmentally
20 friendly practices and reduces the transportation required to
21 deliver essential goods, thus reducing carbon emissions; and

22 WHEREAS, New Mexico has a long cultural and historical
23 tradition of agricultural enterprise; and

24 WHEREAS, a farmers' market needs a large and open public
25 area where farmers, producers and ranchers who have grown,

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1 gathered or raised their fresh foods can sell their products to
2 the public; and

3 WHEREAS, the state fairgrounds can provide a large open
4 area with easy access in a central location surrounded by other
5 diverse businesses and attractions; and

6 WHEREAS, farmers, producers and ranchers from areas around
7 Bernalillo county and throughout the state have access to the
8 state fairgrounds; and

9 WHEREAS, the state fairgrounds can provide access to a
10 large open space that is affordable for both farmers and the
11 customers, who are the backbone of the market; and

12 WHEREAS, a farmers' market at the state fairgrounds will
13 encourage community and home gardens, educate and train
14 producers and help preserve and continue New Mexico's long
15 cultural and historical tradition of agricultural enterprise;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, a farmers' market at the state fairgrounds can
18 stimulate economic growth and revitalize and restore the route
19 66 tradition of tourism in the surrounding area; and

20 WHEREAS, a farmers' market at the state fairgrounds will
21 provide local fresh produce, meats and other agricultural
22 products with great nutritional benefits at a lower cost to
23 consumers; and

24 WHEREAS, the Albuquerque area receives hundreds of
25 thousands of dollars per year from federal public assistance

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1 programs to provide nutrition, and these funds can be used by
2 consumers at a farmers' market at the state fairgrounds; and

3 WHEREAS, retention of federal money in the local foodshed
4 area of New Mexico has an economic multiplier of two for every
5 dollar retained; and

6 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of all interested
7 parties, including the New Mexico farmers' marketing
8 association, to plan, discuss and create a sustainable plan
9 that takes into consideration the many aspects of managing
10 successful farmers' markets;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
12 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state fair commission be requested
13 to facilitate dialogue between all interested parties and
14 assess issues of sustainability for supporting a permanent
15 year-round farmers' market on a portion of the state
16 fairgrounds; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
18 transmitted to the state fair commission, the director of the
19 New Mexico department of agriculture, the board of directors of
20 the New Mexico farmers' marketing association and the secretary
21 of economic development.