

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 URGING THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO IDENTIFY
3 FUNDS AND DEDICATE THOSE FUNDS TO FINISHING UNITED STATES
4 HIGHWAY 491 SOON.

5
6 WHEREAS, last year, New Mexico made a generous
7 contribution to finishing United States highway 491, which
8 runs from Gallup to Shiprock; and

9 WHEREAS, the highway is the primary artery for travel
10 through many of the chapters of the Navajo Nation and the only
11 primary highway for those going from Gallup to the Four
12 Corners area; and

13 WHEREAS, the highway has been used for transport of
14 uranium and, therefore, may have high concentrations of
15 radioactive residue along its shoulders, even though the
16 highway is probably used for more pedestrian traffic than
17 anywhere else in the state; and

18 WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation has dedicated sizeable
19 amounts of money for completion of the highway; and

20 WHEREAS, managing to piece together funding for
21 construction of the highway has been a difficult and
22 complicated process, especially because easements and rights
23 of way are held by many separate people, as well as by states,
24 tribes and the federal government; and

25 WHEREAS, finding and dedicating the funding is

1 especially important because the highway remains only two
2 lanes wide in places, even though it carries heavy and slow
3 truck traffic across the state; and

4 WHEREAS, through dedication and persistence, New Mexico
5 and the Navajo Nation have approximately one-third of the
6 funding needed to broaden the highway to four lanes, though
7 funding for two-thirds of the construction and paving has not
8 yet been identified;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
10 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico congressional
11 delegation be encouraged to help identify funds that can be
12 used to complete the United States highway 491 project; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico congressional
14 delegation be urged to stay in close touch with legislative
15 leadership so that a funding strategy can be developed; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico congressional
17 delegation be assured that the legislature is prepared to
18 help in the efforts to find funding for completion of the
19 United States highway 491 project; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
21 transmitted to all members of New Mexico's congressional
22 delegation, to the president and speaker of the council of
23 the Navajo Nation, to the secretary of transportation, to
24 members of the state transportation commission, to the
25 governor and to the members of the New Mexico legislative

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

council. _____