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HOUSE MEMORIAL 34

**50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011**

INTRODUCED BY

Al Park

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY  
ALTERNATIVE USES FOR STATE FAIRGROUNDS PROPERTY THAT COULD  
PROVIDE A PERMANENT REVENUE STREAM TO FUND FAIRGROUND  
OPERATIONS AND THAT WOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH SURROUNDING CITY  
AND COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE.

WHEREAS, the Expo New Mexico state fair is one of the  
largest fairs in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Expo New Mexico state fairgrounds currently  
leases its buildings and property for a variety of exhibitions  
and commercial purposes, including a racetrack and casino, and  
hosts a state fair annually for approximately seventeen days;  
and

WHEREAS, Expo New Mexico is in need of additional funds  
for maintenance and operations of the New Mexico state

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1 fairgrounds; and

2 WHEREAS, Expo New Mexico state fairgrounds is located in  
3 Albuquerque, the largest urban center in New Mexico, and the  
4 property is surrounded by land used for commercial, office and  
5 residential purposes; and

6 WHEREAS, the potential exists to identify new uses for  
7 state fairgrounds property that could provide a permanent  
8 revenue stream to fund fairgrounds maintenance and operations,  
9 be compatible with the educational purposes of the fairgrounds  
10 as set forth in statute, be compatible with the surrounding  
11 urban development infrastructure and enhance the economy and  
12 the development character of the surrounding urban areas; and

13 WHEREAS, six neighborhood associations recognized by the  
14 city of Albuquerque share a border with the state fairgrounds;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, these associations are eager to participate in  
17 efforts to identify alternative uses for state fairgrounds  
18 property and are already actively engaged in planning efforts  
19 that will meet the mutual needs of the fairgrounds and the  
20 eclectic combination of residential and commercial neighbors  
21 that are contiguously located there;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
23 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be  
24 requested to convene a task force to study alternative uses for  
25 state fairgrounds property that could provide a permanent

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1 revenue stream to fund fairgrounds operations and that would be  
2 compatible with surrounding city and county development and  
3 infrastructure; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include  
5 representation from the state fair commission, legislators  
6 whose districts include neighborhoods surrounding the state  
7 fairgrounds, a neighborhood association located in Albuquerque  
8 city council district six, a neighborhood association located  
9 in Albuquerque city council district seven, Albuquerque city  
10 management, the Bernalillo county board of county commissioners  
11 and the economic development department; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force consider such  
13 potential options as public and private partnerships to create  
14 a business park, shops that lease the fairgrounds land, a  
15 complex of charter schools and the location of a complex of  
16 state and municipal government offices and departments on the  
17 fairgrounds; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force identify and  
19 consider other income-producing options that would be  
20 compatible with the surrounding neighborhoods and city and  
21 county development and infrastructure; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a report of the findings and  
23 recommendations of the task force be presented to the  
24 appropriate interim legislative committee by October 2011; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the negotiations on the

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1 Albuquerque downs and casino lease be suspended until the  
2 findings and recommendations are received and reviewed by the  
3 New Mexico legislature in order to preserve the potential for  
4 new uses identified by the task force; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
6 transmitted to the governor, the chair of the state fair  
7 commission, the president of each of the six neighborhood  
8 associations recognized by the city of Albuquerque that share a  
9 border with the state fairgrounds, the secretary of economic  
10 development, the president of the Albuquerque city council, the  
11 mayor of Albuquerque and the chair of the Bernalillo county  
12 board of county commissioners.