

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CONDUCT A STUDY
3 ON THE FEASIBILITY OF INSTALLING CENTER MEDIAN GUARDRAILS ON
4 RURAL UNITED STATES HIGHWAY 550 FOR PUBLIC AND HUMAN SAFETY.

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6 WHEREAS, United States highway 550 runs from Bernalillo
7 to Colorado, connecting Albuquerque to northwestern
8 New Mexico; and

9 WHEREAS, United States highway 550 moves a great deal of
10 high-speed traffic on a daily basis; and

11 WHEREAS, rural United States highway 550 is one hundred
12 thirty-eight miles from Bernalillo to Bloomfield; and

13 WHEREAS, opposite-direction crashes include head-on
14 collisions and opposite-direction sideswipes; and

15 WHEREAS, a head-on collision is defined as an accident
16 involving the two front ends of two vehicles hitting each
17 other, occurring due to a party driving a vehicle on the wrong
18 side of the road and in the opposite direction of traffic; and

19 WHEREAS, an opposite-direction sideswipe is defined as a
20 crash that occurs when the vehicles' sides or mirrors come
21 into contact due to a party driving on the wrong side of the
22 road and in the opposite direction of traffic; and

23 WHEREAS, ninety-three opposite-direction crashes,
24 including head-on collisions, have occurred on United States
25 highway 550 in the past five years, including six fatal

1 crashes, forty-eight injury-only crashes and thirty-nine
2 opposite-direction sideswipe crashes; and

3 WHEREAS, four of the ninety-three accidents were
4 reported as alcohol-related; and

5 WHEREAS, increased safety measures need to be taken to
6 prevent further head-on collisions and to help ensure the
7 safety of all drivers; and

8 WHEREAS, many head-on collisions occur between Cuba and
9 Nageezi; and

10 WHEREAS, the installation of a semirigid W-beam barrier
11 or a rigid concrete wall barrier would prevent these
12 opposite-direction crashes;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
14 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of transportation be
15 requested to conduct a study on the feasibility of installing
16 center guardrails on rural United States highway 550 to
17 prevent opposite-direction crashes and report its findings to
18 the appropriate interim legislative committee; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
20 transmitted to the secretary of transportation. _____

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