

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 14

2 **50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE FORMATION OF A WORK GROUP TO STUDY AND MAKE  
12 RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS THAT NEW MEXICO'S THREE  
13 RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES CAN MAKE TO THE ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC  
14 DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT PROPOSALS FOR TAX AND OTHER  
15 PREFERENCES.

16  
17 WHEREAS, the legislature is often asked to consider large  
18 economic development, tax preference, subsidy and technology  
19 support proposals on short notice; and

20 WHEREAS, these proposals have significant impacts on state  
21 budgets and often create significant inequities in tax  
22 treatment between companies and industries and often require  
23 exceptions to the anti-donation clause; and

24 WHEREAS, these proposals often involve new technologies  
25 that are poorly understood by legislators and whose validity

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1 has not been independently vetted by experts either through a  
2 review of the scientific literature or by direct verification;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, the legislative finance committee often has  
5 limited resources to analyze these proposals, and it may have  
6 to rely on information provided by those who stand to benefit  
7 financially as its sole source of information; and

8 WHEREAS, taxpayers deserve the same due diligence in  
9 investing their tax dollars, either in tax expenditures,  
10 subsidies or other investments, that private investors  
11 routinely practice; and

12 WHEREAS, the state's research universities often have the  
13 expertise to assist in understanding these issues and the  
14 resources necessary to study large investments in depth; and

15 WHEREAS, involving the research universities will  
16 constructively engage faculty and students in urgent and  
17 meaningful public policy issues both to the state's benefit and  
18 their own;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative finance committee  
21 staff, the higher education department and the state's three  
22 research universities be requested to form a work group to  
23 recommend ways to better use university expertise in performing  
24 independent analysis of economic development and technology  
25 support proposals for tax and other preferences; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group report its  
2 findings and recommendations to the legislative finance  
3 committee and other appropriate interim committees by November  
4 2012; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
6 transmitted to the director of the legislative finance  
7 committee; the secretary of higher education; and the  
8 presidents of the New Mexico institute of mining and  
9 technology, New Mexico state university and the university of  
10 New Mexico.