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SENATE MEMORIAL 59

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

INTRODUCED BY

Stephen H. Fischmann

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO ADDRESS THE NEED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION TO THE SHORTAGE OF AN ADEQUATE WORK FORCE BY INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO CREATE A GUEST WORKER PROGRAM THAT CAN BE IMPLEMENTED IN NEW MEXICO AND ACROSS THE NATION TO HELP THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY COMPETE WITH FOREIGN MARKETS.

WHEREAS, New Mexico is recognized for having the best tasting chile in the United States; and

WHEREAS, chile is recognized as the state vegetable, and "red or green?" as the state question; and

WHEREAS, New Mexicans take great pride in New Mexico chile as a culinary treasure; and

WHEREAS, foreign competitors have captured much of New Mexico's market share of chile products because of their

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1 advantageous regulatory environment and plentiful, cheap labor;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, according to the New Mexico chile association,
4 while consumption of chile is skyrocketing in the United
5 States, New Mexico's production of chile is in steep decline in
6 part due to an inadequate labor force; and

7 WHEREAS, chile producers are dependent on a reliable and
8 skilled work force twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, the majority of agricultural entities are located
11 in low-populated areas with low unemployment rates; and

12 WHEREAS, few unemployed people in these areas are willing
13 to work the hours or do the tasks required to produce chile,
14 and few unemployed people in other parts of the nation are
15 willing to move to where these facilities and jobs are located;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, citizens of the United States of America and
18 other parts of the world are dependent on economical,
19 agricultural production, which is directly dependent on an
20 adequate labor force; and

21 WHEREAS, New Mexico farmers and ranchers face a shortage
22 of workers who are willing and able to work on farms and in
23 fields; and

24 WHEREAS, American agricultural businesses should be
25 assured a legal, stable supply of workers; and

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