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HOUSE MEMORIAL 2

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014

INTRODUCED BY

Nora Espinoza

A MEMORIAL

CALLING ON THE UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION TO REINVIGORATE ITS EFFORTS AIMED AT A SWIFT RESOLUTION OF THE ARMENIA-AZERBAIJAN NAGORNO-KARABAKH CONFLICT.

WHEREAS, the Republic of Azerbaijan is a strategic partner with the United States of America in a strategically important South Caucasus region bordering Iran, the Russian Federation and Central Asia; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America and the Republic of Azerbaijan established diplomatic relations on February 28, 1992; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America supports the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan; and

WHEREAS, over the past twenty years, the United States of
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1 America and the Republic of Azerbaijan expanded their
2 partnership and developed multifaceted cooperation on issues
3 ranging from energy security, to the fight against
4 international terrorism, to efforts against drug and human
5 trafficking, to nonproliferation of weapons of mass
6 destruction; and

7 WHEREAS, United States Secretary of State John Kerry
8 stated on June 3, 2013 that "Azerbaijan has been an important
9 partner in Afghanistan, in ISAF, and equally important with
10 respect to the northern distribution route but also the
11 southern gas line and other issues that are of great importance
12 to us"; and

13 WHEREAS, over the past decades, the Republic of Azerbaijan
14 has succeeded in rebuilding its economy, has tripled its gross
15 domestic product, is currently one of the rapidly developing
16 economies globally and accounts for eighty percent of the gross
17 domestic product of the South Caucasus region and is the
18 biggest United States trade partner in the South Caucasus; and

19 WHEREAS, the Republic of Azerbaijan initiated a number of
20 strategically important trans-regional energy and
21 transportation projects such as the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil
22 pipeline, the Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum gas pipeline and the
23 Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway, which contribute to the prosperity
24 of not only the Republic of Azerbaijan, but also to regional
25 allies of the United States of America like Turkey and Georgia;

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1 and

2 WHEREAS, despite these positive developments, persistent
3 protracted conflicts in the South Caucasus, including the
4 Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, continue to
5 threaten regional peace and stability and impede further
6 development of regional cooperation for the benefit of all
7 three countries of the South Caucasus; and

8 WHEREAS, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of
9 Armenia and the Russian Federation, on November 2, 2008,
10 adopted a joint declaration in which they stated that the
11 political settlement of the conflict, on the basis of
12 international law, will create favorable conditions for
13 economic development and comprehensive cooperation in the
14 region; and

15 WHEREAS, the United States of America, France and the
16 Russian Federation are Co-Chairs of the Organization for
17 Security and Cooperation in Europe Minsk Group, tasked to
18 facilitate negotiations between the Republic of Armenia and the
19 Republic of Azerbaijan toward a political settlement of the
20 conflict based on the principles and norms of international law
21 and the decisions and documents adopted by the Organization for
22 Security and Cooperation and the applicable United Nations
23 Security Council resolutions; and

24 WHEREAS, United States President Barack Obama, on August
25 5, 2013, appointed Ambassador James B. Warlick, Jr., as the

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1 next United States Co-Chair of the Organization for Security
2 and Cooperation in Europe Minsk Group; and

3 WHEREAS, the international community, including the
4 Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Minsk Group
5 Co-Chair countries, has stated on a number of occasions that it
6 supports the territorial integrity of the Republic of
7 Azerbaijan and does not recognize Nagorno-Karabakh as an
8 independent entity; and

9 WHEREAS, the United Nations Security Council in its
10 resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884 reaffirmed support for the
11 sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of
12 Azerbaijan and demanded the immediate, complete and
13 unconditional withdrawal of all Armenian forces from all of the
14 occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan; and

15 WHEREAS, the international community, including such
16 international organizations as the North Atlantic Treaty
17 Organization, the United Nations, the Organization of Islamic
18 Cooperation and the Non-Aligned Movement, reaffirmed support
19 for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic
20 of Azerbaijan and recognized that the conflict should be
21 resolved on the basis of the sovereignty and territorial
22 integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan within its
23 internationally recognized borders;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
25 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the strategic

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1 partnership between the United States of America and the
2 Republic of Azerbaijan be supported; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States
4 administration be requested to reinvigorate efforts aimed at a
5 swift and just political settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan
6 Nagorno-Karabakh conflict; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
8 transmitted to the Office of the Governor, the Secretary of
9 Cultural Affairs and the United States Secretary of State.