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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING RECOGNITION AND EXPLORATION OF THE POSSIBLE
ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF BUILDING A MULTIPURPOSE ARENA IN
DOWNTOWN ALBUQUERQUE.

WHEREAS, the Albuquerque metropolitan area is a vibrant
and rapidly evolving urban market; and

WHEREAS, the area has a population of more than nine
hundred thousand residents and is currently growing at a
steady pace of one or two percent a year, according to city
of Albuquerque economic development department statistics;
and

WHEREAS, Albuquerque boasts a temperate climate with
more than three hundred days of sunshine a year, which makes
it an ideal location for outdoor activities and
entertainment; and

WHEREAS, Albuquerque city government has taken recent
steps to reinvigorate Albuquerque's downtown corridor with a
multifaceted plan that focuses on building, renovating and
reimagining many areas of downtown; and

WHEREAS, projects are already underway for renovation of
the convention center, reconstruction of an element on civic
plaza and expansion of Albuquerque's burgeoning entertainment
district; and

WHEREAS, the inclusion of a multipurpose arena as a

1 sports and entertainment venue would greatly enhance the
2 reinvigoration of Albuquerque's downtown corridor and provide
3 positive economic benefits; and

4 WHEREAS, migration and growth patterns within the
5 metropolitan area make downtown Albuquerque an excellent
6 location for a new multipurpose arena as it provides
7 accessibility to residents of the entire metropolitan area
8 and is at the intersection of primary north-south and east-
9 west interstates; and

10 WHEREAS, multipurpose arenas attract people throughout
11 the year by offering sporting events, concerts,
12 entertainment, job fairs and conventions; and

13 WHEREAS, multipurpose arenas sustain the local economy,
14 and cities benefit from a year-round economic impact; and

15 WHEREAS, often, multipurpose arenas are connected to
16 other venues, such as hotels and conferencing; shopping malls
17 and education; and training facilities, which provide
18 additional revenue opportunities; and

19 WHEREAS, a multipurpose arena provides the economic
20 advantage of a singular infrastructure and piece of real
21 estate that can support more than one team or event; and

22 WHEREAS, a multipurpose arena could host minor league
23 hockey, indoor soccer or other sports and could target an
24 arena football franchise; and

25 WHEREAS, the Albuquerque area has the economic capacity

1 to support a major league sports team, according to a recent
2 analysis by *American City Business Journals*; and

3 WHEREAS, eighty-three markets in the United States and
4 Canada were analyzed to determine if they had the financial
5 ability to support new teams in baseball, football,
6 basketball, hockey and soccer; and

7 WHEREAS, the analysis found that the greater
8 metropolitan area, which includes Albuquerque, Rio Rancho and
9 Santa Fe, has the economic capacity to support a major league
10 sports team such as a soccer team; and

11 WHEREAS, many metropolitan area governments have taken
12 advantage of the economic benefits of building multipurpose
13 arenas in their downtown areas, including the Chesapeake
14 Energy arena in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; the Jon M. Huntsman
15 center in Salt Lake City, Utah; the Sleep Train arena in
16 Sacramento, California; the Moda center in Portland, Oregon;
17 the SAP center at San Jose, California; the Thomas & Mack
18 center in Las Vegas, Nevada; the BOK center in Tulsa,
19 Oklahoma; the CenturyLink center in Omaha, Nebraska; the
20 Wells Fargo arena in Des Moines, Iowa; and the Pinnacle Bank
21 arena in Lincoln, Nebraska; and

22 WHEREAS, the Duke City Gladiators arena football team
23 plays at several multipurpose arenas with smaller city
24 populations than Albuquerque, including the United Wireless
25 arena in Dodge City, Kansas; the Allen event center in Allen,

1 Texas; and the INTRUST Bank arena in Wichita, Kansas;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the possible
4 economic benefits of building a multipurpose arena in
5 downtown Albuquerque be recognized and explored; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
7 transmitted to the mayor of the city of Albuquerque, the
8 chairman of the Bernalillo county commission and the president
9 of the greater Albuquerque chamber of commerce.

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