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HOUSE MEMORIAL 34

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016

INTRODUCED BY

Tomás E. Salazar and Patricia Roybal Caballero

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO IDENTIFY AND STUDY OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRADE AND FOR SHARING OF ACADEMIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES BETWEEN NEW MEXICO AND CUBA.

WHEREAS, Cuba is an island nation with over eleven million inhabitants, and it offers to the world a variety of valuable economic, academic and cultural resources; and

WHEREAS, Cuba's economy is based on exports such as sugar, nickel, refined petroleum, tobacco, fish, medical products, citrus fruits and coffee; and

WHEREAS, the United States department of agriculture permits the sale of over one thousand three hundred agricultural, fish and forestry commodities to Cuba; and

WHEREAS, Cuba has established or reestablished trade relations with many countries in Latin America, the Caribbean,

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1 Africa, Asia, Europe, China and Russia; and

2 WHEREAS, Cuba's major export partners include Canada,
3 China and Venezuela; and

4 WHEREAS, several European nations have conducted trade and
5 business relations with Cuba for over twenty years; and

6 WHEREAS, Cuba boasts a highly skilled labor pool, with a
7 significant number of students enrolled in post-secondary
8 education; and

9 WHEREAS, there are a number of well-established colleges
10 and universities in Cuba, including universidad de La Habana,
11 instituto superior politécnico José Antonio Echeverría and
12 universidad central Marta Abreu de Las Villas; and

13 WHEREAS, Cuba has trained high numbers of medical
14 personnel and has made significant contributions to world
15 health; and

16 WHEREAS, in addition to its economic and academic
17 resources, Cuba has a diverse culture with roots in Europe and
18 Africa, among other regions, and has made valuable
19 contributions to the world's musical, artistic and literary
20 landscape; and

21 WHEREAS, due to trade sanctions, the United States and
22 Cuba have not meaningfully explored a trade relationship for
23 over fifty-five years; and

24 WHEREAS, the United States has normalized diplomatic
25 relations with Cuba; and

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1 WHEREAS, such diplomatic relations could set the stage for
2 a possible trade relationship with Cuba; and

3 WHEREAS, New Mexico could benefit from the possibility of
4 increased trade with Cuba; and

5 WHEREAS, New Mexico farmers, in particular, could benefit
6 from trade with Cuban markets; and

7 WHEREAS, Cuba has expressed the need for lumber, and New
8 Mexico could meet that need and Cuba's needs for many other
9 resources through a mutually beneficial trade partnership; and

10 WHEREAS, the education of students at institutions of
11 higher learning in New Mexico and Cuba could be enhanced
12 through information, programs and experiences shared between
13 faculty and students of those institutions; and

14 WHEREAS, New Mexico and Cuba have in common rich and
15 diverse cultures, and it would thus be appropriate to
16 facilitate communication and productive relationships to
17 benefit their respective economies, academic institutions and
18 cultural landscapes; and

19 WHEREAS, Las Vegas, New Mexico, and Banes, Cuba, as
20 members of the United States-Cuba sister city association, are
21 established as "sister cities", further signifying the
22 potential for a significant and beneficial relationship between
23 New Mexico and Cuba;

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

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1 development department be requested to identify and study
2 opportunities for trade and for sharing of academic and
3 cultural resources between New Mexico and Cuba; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that representatives of the
5 economic development department report its findings and
6 recommendations, including an estimate of the costs associated
7 with implementation of such recommendations, to the legislative
8 finance committee and an appropriate interim committee by no
9 later than August 1, 2016; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the secretary of economic development, the chair
12 of the legislative finance committee and the co-chairs of the
13 New Mexico legislative council.