

March 7, 2018

HOUSE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 152

The Honorable Brian Egolf, Jr., Speaker of the House and
Members of the House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Honorable Speaker Egolf and Members of the House:

Pursuant to the Constitution of the State of New Mexico, Article IV, Section 22, I hereby VETO and return HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL 197, as amended, enacted by the Fifty-Third Legislature, Second Session, 2018.

Throughout my tenure as Governor, I have worked hard to ensure that New Mexico is competitive with other states for attracting new investments, new jobs, and more opportunities for our children. Companies like Facebook, Safelite, and Valley Cold Storage have invested billions of dollars in New Mexico's economy because of our efforts to make New Mexico more business friendly. We have experienced the tremendous benefits of lowering the burdens on our businesses and I will continue to fight to make New Mexico's economy grow and prosper.

Roswell and the former Walker Air Force Base have great economic potential, which is why I support funding for the facility through capital outlay and the budget. However, I cannot support HB 197. Expanding government through the creation of such a district and authority is not the answer to capitalizing on economic opportunity. Transferring broad powers, including eminent domain, to a newly created quasi-governmental entity is a poor way of supporting economic development. Under this bill, the authority's membership would not be adequately held accountable to the public, as the public would not be afforded the right to elect or remove a member of the authority. Furthermore, the tax exemption language that was included is overly broad and could lead to unintended consequences. Additionally, there are other geographically specific tools already available to accomplish the objectives contemplated by this legislation.

Respectfully yours,

Susana Martinez
Governor

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RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Time: _____ a.m. p.m.

Date: _____, 2018

By _____
Secretary of State

Time: _____ a.m. p.m.

Date: _____, 2018

By _____
Chief Clerk of the House