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SENATE MEMORIAL 3

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2020

INTRODUCED BY

Nancy Rodriguez

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS TO GLEAN
UNHARVESTED FARM PRODUCE TO ADDRESS ISSUES OF FOOD INSECURITY.

WHEREAS, according to feeding America's 2019 map the meal
gap study, approximately three hundred twenty thousand people
in New Mexico are food insecure and more than one-third of
those who are food insecure are children; and

WHEREAS, a 2010 missing meals study found that low-income
people in New Mexico miss one hundred seventeen million one
hundred forty thousand eight hundred seventy meals every year;
and

WHEREAS, people suffering food insecurity often make
trade-offs between important basic needs, such as paying for
housing or medical bills and purchasing nutritionally adequate

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1 foods; and

2 WHEREAS, over fifty percent of households seeking
3 emergency food assistance include at least one employed adult;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, in the United States, it is estimated that thirty
6 percent to forty percent of the food supply is wasted each
7 year; and

8 WHEREAS, food waste worldwide is a major contributor to
9 the emission of greenhouse gases, approximating the emissions
10 of thirty-seven million passenger vehicles on the road; and

11 WHEREAS, food waste occurs at every step of the food
12 production process, from agricultural production to
13 consumption; and

14 WHEREAS, produce that does not meet the aesthetic
15 standards for commercial sale is often left unharvested to save
16 the expense and labor involved in bringing the produce to
17 market; and

18 WHEREAS, approximately twenty billion pounds of fruits and
19 vegetables in the United States are discarded on farms or left
20 in fields and plowed under; and

21 WHEREAS, unharvested farm produce could be a source of
22 food to address food insecurity in New Mexico;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
24 OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico department of agriculture be
25 requested to convene a working group to develop recommendations

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1 to glean unharvested farm produce to address issues of food
2 insecurity; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be composed
4 of representatives of the New Mexico department of agriculture,
5 the department of environment, the workforce solutions
6 department, the human services department and relevant non-
7 governmental organizations, including the New Mexico
8 association of food banks, anti-hunger advocacy organizations,
9 labor organizations and agriculture-focused groups, such as
10 4-H, the New Mexico farmers' marketing association and the New
11 Mexico food and agriculture policy council; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be requested
13 to develop recommendations on how best to coordinate with
14 farmers to glean unharvested produce and efficiently distribute
15 the produce in order to effectively address food insecurity;
16 and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be
18 requested to report its recommendations to the appropriate
19 interim legislative committee by November 1, 2020; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
21 transmitted to the director of the New Mexico department of
22 agriculture, the secretary of workforce solutions, the
23 secretary of human services and the co-chairs of the New Mexico
24 legislative council.