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SENATE MEMORIAL 9

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021

INTRODUCED BY

David M. Gallegos

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF SOUTHEASTERN NEW MEXICO RELATIVE TO EL PASO, TEXAS, AND SURROUNDING AREAS.

WHEREAS, southeastern New Mexico and neighboring El Paso, Texas, and surrounding areas in New Mexico each have economic strengths and advantages; and

WHEREAS, the economic development department points to New Mexico having a competitive advantage when it comes to energy, landscape, sheer space, geographic location, logistics, research and development and manufacturing; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is the eighth largest net energy supplier in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Permian basin, located in western Texas and

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1 southeastern New Mexico, is one of the most important areas for
2 the production of crude oil in the country, and geologists
3 estimate that the Permian basin may have reserves for another
4 one hundred years; and

5 WHEREAS, southeastern New Mexico hosts an incredible array
6 of tourist destinations, including Carlsbad Caverns national
7 park and White Sands national park; and

8 WHEREAS, southeastern New Mexico is Billy the Kid's former
9 stomping grounds, and the Billy the Kid museum in Fort Sumner
10 brings the history of the wild west alive; and

11 WHEREAS, the Roswell unidentified flying objects museum is
12 a popular draw for visitors curious about the unknown and
13 unexplained; and

14 WHEREAS, El Paso is the largest metropolitan area along
15 the Texas-Mexico border and boasts a business-friendly
16 operating environment and one of the largest manufacturing
17 centers in North America and is recognized as globally
18 competitive; and

19 WHEREAS, El Paso has expressed concerns that it has been
20 neglected by Texas and has expressed some desire to no longer
21 be a part of that state; and

22 WHEREAS, counties in southeastern New Mexico, including
23 Chaves, Curry, Eddy, Lea and Roosevelt, have expressed similar
24 concerns that they have been neglected by New Mexico;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE

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1 OF NEW MEXICO that the director of the local government
2 division of the department of finance and administration be
3 requested to convene a task force to study the feasibility of
4 New Mexico and Texas trading land by population or land mass;
5 and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force review the
7 expressed concerns and determine if it is feasible to enter
8 into discussions with Texas to see if there is some common
9 desire to altering the boundaries between the states to address
10 concerns of El Paso, Texas, and the southeastern New Mexico
11 counties of Chaves, Curry, Eddy, Lea and Roosevelt; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed of
13 representatives of New Mexico counties, the New Mexico
14 municipal league, the economic development department and the
15 taxation and revenue department; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its
17 findings and recommendations to the legislative finance
18 committee and the revenue stabilization and tax policy
19 committee by November 1, 2021; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
21 transmitted to the director of the local government division of
22 the department of finance and administration, the executive
23 director of New Mexico counties, the executive director of the
24 New Mexico municipal league, the director of the legislative
25 finance committee, the secretary of economic development and

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the secretary of taxation and revenue.

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