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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 59

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1997

INTRODUCED BY

MICHAEL S. SANCHEZ

A JOINT MEMORIAL

PROTESTING THE TRANSFER OF THE OPTICS SUPPORT FUNCTION OF THE NORTH RANGE OF THE STALLION RANGE CENTER TO HOLLOWMAN AIR FORCE BASE, THUS TRANSFERRING TWENTY JOBS FROM THE COMMUNITY OF SOCORRO.

WHEREAS, in early January, 1997, the optics support function of the north range of the Stallion range center of White Sands missile range was transferred to Holloman air force base; and

WHEREAS, this transfer resulted in the loss of twenty jobs from the Socorro area; and

WHEREAS, these employees were offered only the options of showing up for work at the new location three hours away, taking early retirement or losing their jobs; and

WHEREAS, it is believed, but as yet is unconfirmed by the

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1 employer, that moving this optics support function was not to
2 comply with a scientific need related to performing the work but
3 rather to possibly save money by reducing salary costs of senior
4 and experienced employees, most of whom have between twenty and
5 twenty-five years of experience; and

6 WHEREAS, three of these employees have separated from the
7 job because of this undue hardship; and

8 WHEREAS, in recent weeks, the seventeen Socorro residents
9 who now commute weekly in order to keep their jobs and support
10 their families have found themselves being offered compensation
11 to drive from Holloman back up to the north range of the
12 Stallion range center to perform daily the same optics support
13 function work they were assigned to prior to their unit being
14 relocated to the Alamogordo air base; and

15 WHEREAS, knowledgeable financial computations on the matter
16 give no hint of savings simply by moving the unit from the
17 Stallion range to the Holloman base; and

18 WHEREAS, many of these employees have families who now live
19 with the emotional strain of having only one parent most of the
20 week; and

21 WHEREAS, in a community of approximately eight thousand
22 persons, the loss of income from twenty jobs means a very
23 noticeable impact on local revenue, including gross receipts
24 revenue; and

25 WHEREAS, unemployment in the Socorro area averaged over

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1 nine percent for calendar year 1996; and

2 WHEREAS, the Socorro city council, the Socorro county
3 commission, the greater Socorro area chamber of commerce and the
4 Socorro public school district administration have all strongly
5 protested the transfer of these jobs from the Stallion range;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico congressional delegation
8 and the governor of New Mexico be requested to use every
9 available means to return these optics support function jobs to
10 the north range of the Stallion range center on a permanent
11 basis; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the optics support unit is
13 returned to the north range of the Stallion range center, the
14 contractor administrating the work offer to rehire the three
15 employees who separated due to the location shift; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the administration of the White
17 Sands missile range and its various contractors take into
18 serious consideration the financial impact on local communities
19 as they rearrange their corporate economies; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be sent
21 to the Socorro city council, the Socorro county commission, the
22 greater Socorro area chamber of commerce, the commander of the
23 White Sands missile range, the commander of Holloman air force
24 base, each member of New Mexico's congressional delegation and
25 the governor.

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