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SENATE MEMORIAL 8

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SPECIAL SESSION, 1999

INTRODUCED BY

Phil A. Griego

A MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO CREATE AN ADVISORY
COMMITTEE TO STUDY LAND GRANTS IN NEW MEXICO.**

**WHEREAS, New Mexico has a unique history in the
acquisition of land due to the substantial number of Spanish
and Mexican land grants that were an integral part of the
colonization and growth of this area of the country; and**

**WHEREAS, various provisions of the treaties signed under
prior sovereigns have not yet been fully implemented in the
spirit of Article 6 of the constitution of the United States;
and**

**WHEREAS, serious questions still exist about prior
ownership, particularly about certain public lands; and**

**WHEREAS, there are numerous land grants throughout the
state with different concerns and issues that need to heard;**

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1 and

2 WHEREAS, the legislature could take action to assist land
3 grant heirs to balance the demands of the traditional ways of
4 life with the changes introduced by a growing population and
5 advanced technology;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
7 OF NEW MEXICO that the attorney general be requested to create
8 an advisory committee to:

9 A. conduct statewide hearings;

10 B. study existing law regarding land grants and
11 develop legislation to improve existing law for the purpose of
12 supporting and promoting the interest of the community land
13 grants;

14 C. gather testimony from land grant heirs from
15 across New Mexico to acquire an understanding of the issues
16 and concerns facing them;

17 D. gather testimony from other community groups
18 and governmental entities to understand the relationship
19 between land grants heirs and other property owners in New
20 Mexico; and

21 E. report to the appropriate legislative interim
22 committee and to the governor recommended changes to existing
23 law, including ownership, water rights, natural resources,
24 sovereignty, land use, industry, eminent domain, planning and
25 zoning, prior to the second session of the forty-fourth

1 legislature and the first session of the forty-fifth
2 legislature; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
4 sent to the attorney general.

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