

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 8

**57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

INTRODUCED BY

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and John Block

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO ESTABLISH A REST  
STOP ON UNITED STATES HIGHWAY 380 AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE  
TRINITY SITE NEAR BINGHAM, NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, July 16, 2025 marks the eightieth anniversary of  
the detonation of the first atomic weapon at the Trinity site  
near Bingham, New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the Trinity site remains a highly restricted area  
within the White Sands missile range; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no plaque or other marker  
informing travelers in the area of the great historical  
significance of this site; and

WHEREAS, the lives of many residents of Socorro and Otero  
counties were greatly impacted in the aftermath of the  
detonation at the site; and

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1           WHEREAS, those individuals impacted by the detonation at  
2 the site have become known as "downwinders" and have struggled  
3 to achieve recognition of their sacrifice in the development of  
4 the first atomic weapon, which ended World War II; and

5           WHEREAS, the federal government has never formally  
6 recognized the contributions and sacrifices of the downwinders;  
7 and

8           WHEREAS, there are fewer and fewer survivors of the  
9 detonation of the first atomic weapon, making it more urgent to  
10 acknowledge these contributions and sacrifices;

11           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
12 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of transportation be  
13 requested to construct an appropriate rest stop and memorial to  
14 honor the downwinders at the entrance to the Trinity site near  
15 Bingham on United States highway 380 as soon as practicable;  
16 and

17           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of  
18 transportation be requested to install an appropriate roadside  
19 informational plaque at the memorial site in consultation with  
20 appropriate interested parties; and

21           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of  
22 transportation be requested to hold a dedication ceremony at  
23 the memorial site on July 16, 2025 to honor the downwinders and  
24 to extend an invitation to those individuals and families still  
25 living and known to be among the residents impacted by the

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1 detonation at the Trinity site so they may be recognized for  
2 their sacrifice and contributions; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
4 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of transportation  
5 and the Tularosa basin downwinders consortium.