SENATE MEMORIAL 16

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

INTRODUCED BY

Gay G. Kernan

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NATURAL HERITAGE NEW MEXICO DIVISION OF THE
MUSEUM OF SOUTHWESTERN BIOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO,
IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER RELEVANT AGENCIES, TO STUDY THE
DEVELOPMENT, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A WEB-BASED
INFORMATION PORTAL THAT WOULD ALLOW PUBLIC ACCESS TO STATE
ENVIRONMENTAL DATA.

WHEREAS, numerous New Mexico agencies have environmental
data compiled in separate databases that do not interface with
each other; and

WHEREAS, an environmental database would provide a
centralized, map-based, searchable website to house New
Mexico's environmental data; and

WHEREAS, a centralized environmental database would
improve the state's environmental data infrastructure by

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creating, operating and maintaining a database that would be
free, user-friendly, searchable and accessible to the public
and state agencies; and

WHEREAS, an environmental database would house the state's
environmental data for the purpose of governmental
transparency, interagency cooperation and information sharing;
and

WHEREAS, an environmental database would provide
widespread access to the best scientific data to address the
state's natural resource and environmental management needs;
and

WHEREAS, information is needed to identify existing
environmental databases, the desired architecture and the cost
for a common system; and

WHEREAS, the natural heritage New Mexico division of the
museum of southwestern biology at the university of New Mexico
has the expertise to study the development, operation and
maintenance of a web-based information portal of state
environmental data; and

WHEREAS, the bureau of geology and mineral resources at
the New Mexico institute of mining and technology and the New
Mexico resource geographic information system program and
clearinghouse at the earth data analysis center at the
university of New Mexico would bring valuable knowledge to the
creation of a statewide environmental database; and

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WHEREAS, input from the energy, minerals and natural resources department, the department of environment, the state land office, the department of health, the department of game and fish, the public regulation commission, the historic preservation division of the cultural affairs department and the department of information technology would contribute to the study of the viability of a state environmental database;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the division leader of the natural heritage New Mexico division of the museum of southwestern biology at the university of New Mexico be requested to study the development, operation and maintenance of a web-based information portal that would allow public access to state environmental data; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the bureau of geology and mineral resources at the New Mexico institute of mining and technology and the New Mexico resource geographic information system program and clearinghouse at the earth data analysis center at the university of New Mexico be requested to participate in the study of the viability of a statewide environmental database; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that representatives of the energy, minerals and natural resources department, the department of environment, the state land office, the department of health, the department of game and fish, the public regulation commission.
commission, the historic preservation division of the cultural affairs department and the department of information technology be requested to participate in the study of the viability of a statewide environmental database; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the division leader of the natural heritage New Mexico division of the museum of southwestern biology at the university of New Mexico be requested to report its findings and conclusions to the appropriate interim legislative committee by November 1, 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the division leader of the natural heritage New Mexico division of the museum of southwestern biology at the university of New Mexico, the director of the bureau of geology and mineral resources at the New Mexico institute of mining and technology, the director of the New Mexico resource geographic information system program and clearinghouse at the earth data analysis center at the university of New Mexico, the secretary of energy, minerals and natural resources, the secretary of environment, the commissioner of public lands, the secretary of health, the director of the department of game and fish, the chair of the public regulation commission, the director of the historic preservation division of the cultural affairs department and the secretary of information technology.