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**HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 48**

**45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002**

**INTRODUCED BY**

**Rhonda S. King**

**A JOINT MEMORIAL**

**REQUESTING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, TOURISM DEPARTMENT AND STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT TO WORK WITH THE TOWN OF EDGEWOOD, PROJECT ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY OF EDGEWOOD AND EDGEWOOD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO PRESERVE, REVITALIZE AND PROMOTE CULTURAL AND HISTORIC SITES, TOURISM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE EDGEWOOD REGION.**

**WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico wishes to protect, preserve, conserve, interpret and celebrate its historically and culturally significant structures and vistas, especially assets related to historic route 66 communities in New Mexico; and**

**WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico recognizes the benefit of developing heritage tourism, which promotes local commitment to historic preservation and conservation of**

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1 historic route 66 and other culturally significant structures  
2 and locations; and

3 WHEREAS, heritage tourism related to historic route 66  
4 can help communities located along what is known as "America's  
5 Main Street" and the "Mother Road"; and

6 WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico wishes to work with  
7 route 66 communities to diversify local economies with  
8 heritage tourism; and

9 WHEREAS, the culturally significant highway known as  
10 route 66 passes directly through the town of Edgewood; and

11 WHEREAS, a key New Mexico transportation and tourism  
12 artery, interstate 40, also passes directly through the town  
13 of Edgewood; and

14 WHEREAS, the town of Edgewood is the exact east-west  
15 halfway point of both route 66 and interstate 40 across the  
16 state of New Mexico; and

17 WHEREAS, within the town limits of Edgewood is an  
18 original 1930s-era work progress administration project  
19 schoolhouse, located at historic route 66 and state highway  
20 344, which is in jeopardy of being razed; and

21 WHEREAS, the town of Edgewood has other traditional  
22 historic and cultural markers of the rapidly disappearing  
23 small-town lifestyle in farming and ranching communities of  
24 New Mexico that are also in jeopardy of being lost; and

25 WHEREAS, the town of Edgewood and surrounding areas offer

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1 notable recreational opportunities, such as Wildlife West  
2 nature park, horseback riding, hiking, mountains and wide open  
3 spaces; and

4 WHEREAS, Edgewood hosts the annual "Rt. 66 Run, Rally &  
5 Rock" festival celebrating the highway's influence on New  
6 Mexico's past, present and future; and

7 WHEREAS, the town of Edgewood already has in place a  
8 number of tourist conveniences, such as fuel station,  
9 restaurants, repair services, camping and lodging, that would  
10 benefit from increased tourism; and

11 WHEREAS, the town of Edgewood is the eastern gateway to  
12 the greater Albuquerque metropolitan area and the southern  
13 gateway to Santa Fe county; and

14 WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico wishes to use state and  
15 federal scenic byway funds to assist in the management,  
16 preservation and promotion of historic route 66 in New Mexico;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico wishes to develop  
19 tourism within the state from both in-state and out-of-state  
20 tourists; and

21 WHEREAS, the town of Edgewood wishes to preserve and  
22 promote its underdeveloped cultural and tourism assets; and

23 WHEREAS, the town of Edgewood wishes to use, through  
24 adaptive reuse, the 1930s work progress administration  
25 schoolhouse to create a memorial and interpretive center

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1 honoring the workers who built route 66 and small-town life;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, the town of Edgewood wishes to establish and  
4 house in the work progress administration schoolhouse building  
5 a cooperative art gallery to serve the region and promote the  
6 local economy; and

7 WHEREAS, the town of Edgewood wishes to establish and use  
8 the remaining classroom in the work progress administration  
9 schoolhouse as a unique hands-on learning center; and

10 WHEREAS, the town of Edgewood wishes to establish a main  
11 street program to preserve existing sites and address with  
12 foresight issues of development along route 66 within the town  
13 limits in order to preserve and promote the cultural integrity  
14 of the highway as a tourism asset; and

15 WHEREAS, the town of Edgewood wishes to work with the  
16 state to strengthen the economic vitality of the Edgewood  
17 region;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the economic development department,  
20 tourism department and state highway and transportation  
21 department work with the town of Edgewood, project association  
22 for community of Edgewood and Edgewood chamber of commerce in  
23 the acquisition, preservation, conservation and promotion of  
24 culturally and historically significant structures, roadways  
25 and locations within the town of Edgewood and the surrounding

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1 region; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
3 transmitted to the secretary of economic development, the  
4 secretary of tourism, the secretary of highways and  
5 transportation, the New Mexico route 66 association and New  
6 Mexico arts.

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