

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 35

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

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING STATE AGENCIES TO FURTHER DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A COORDINATED STRATEGY TO PREVENT AND RESPOND, IF NECESSARY, TO BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL TERRORIST THREATS OR ATTACKS UPON THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO'S AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY.

WHEREAS, the New Mexico state legislature acknowledges the importance of our state's agricultural industry to the social and economic well-being of the state; and

WHEREAS, agriculture is significant to state and national homeland security; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing concern for potential biological and chemical terrorist attacks against both our state and national agricultural industries; and

WHEREAS, a terrorist attack against New Mexico's agricultural industry can be more difficult to detect and

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1 easier to perpetrate than a terrorist attack against other  
2 civilian targets; and

3 WHEREAS, the ramifications of a biological or terrorist  
4 attack on an agricultural target may extend far beyond the  
5 immediate agricultural community to affect other segments of  
6 society; and

7 WHEREAS, a major biological or chemical terrorist attack  
8 against New Mexico's agricultural industry would cause  
9 economic destabilization, thus setting off a chain reaction  
10 touching the pocketbook of every citizen; and

11 WHEREAS, a biological or chemical terrorist attack  
12 against New Mexico's agricultural industry would disrupt  
13 interactions between rural and urban areas of the state; and

14 WHEREAS, New Mexico has an international border that must  
15 be protected from potential biological or chemical terrorist  
16 attacks against New Mexico's agricultural industry; and

17 WHEREAS, New Mexico must protect its agricultural  
18 infrastructure; and

19 WHEREAS, universities and laboratories in New Mexico are  
20 currently central to the development of defenses against  
21 potential biological and chemical terrorist attacks against  
22 New Mexico's agricultural industry;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
24 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health, the New  
25 Mexico department of agriculture, the New Mexico livestock

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1 board and other appropriate state governmental entities  
2 collaborate with the United States department of agriculture  
3 in order to develop defenses against possible biological and  
4 chemical terrorist attacks against New Mexico's agricultural  
5 industry; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state universities of New  
7 Mexico collaborate with the national laboratories located in  
8 New Mexico to develop defenses against possible biological and  
9 chemical terrorist attacks against New Mexico's agricultural  
10 industry; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state agencies and  
12 universities collaborate with the agricultural communities of  
13 New Mexico and representatives from agricultural organizations  
14 to develop methods to prepare and defend against potential  
15 biological and chemical terrorist attacks against New Mexico's  
16 agricultural industry; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
18 transmitted to the department of health, the New Mexico  
19 department of agriculture, the New Mexico livestock board, the  
20 board of regents of the following institutions: the  
21 university of New Mexico, New Mexico state university, New  
22 Mexico highlands university, eastern New Mexico university,  
23 western New Mexico university and the New Mexico institute of  
24 mining and technology.

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