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HOUSE MEMORIAL 123

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

Tomás E. Salazar

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO IDENTIFY AND
STUDY OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRADE AND FOR SHARING OF ACADEMIC AND
CULTURAL RESOURCES BETWEEN NEW MEXICO AND CUBA.

WHEREAS, Cuba is an island nation with over eleven million
inhabitants, and offers to the world a variety of valuable
economic, academic and cultural resources; and

WHEREAS, Cuba's economy is based on exports such as sugar,
nickel, refined petroleum, tobacco, fish, medical products,
citrus fruits and coffee; and

WHEREAS, Cuba's major export partners include Canada,
China and Venezuela; and

WHEREAS, several European nations have also conducted
trade and business relations with Cuba for over twenty years;
and

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1 WHEREAS, Cuba boasts a highly skilled labor pool, with a
2 significant number of students enrolled in post-secondary
3 education; and

4 WHEREAS, there are a number of well-established colleges
5 and universities in Cuba, including universidad de la Habana,
6 instituto superior politécnico José Antonio Echeverría and
7 universidad central Marta Abreu de la Villas; and

8 WHEREAS, Cuba has trained high numbers of medical
9 personnel and has made significant contributions to world
10 health; and

11 WHEREAS, in addition to its economic and academic
12 resources, Cuba has a diverse culture with roots in Europe and
13 Africa, among other regions, and has made valuable
14 contributions to the world's musical, artistic and literary
15 landscape; and

16 WHEREAS, due to trade sanctions, the United States and
17 Cuba have not meaningfully explored a trade relationship for
18 over fifty-four years; and

19 WHEREAS, the president of the United States has announced
20 plans to normalize diplomatic relations with Cuba; and

21 WHEREAS, such diplomatic relations could set the stage for
22 a possible trade relationship with Cuba; and

23 WHEREAS, New Mexico could benefit from the possibility of
24 increased trade with Cuba; and

25 WHEREAS, New Mexico farmers, in particular, could benefit

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1 from trade with Cuban markets; and

2 WHEREAS, Cuba has expressed the need for lumber, and New
3 Mexico could meet that need and Cuba's needs for many other
4 resources through a mutually beneficial trade partnership; and

5 WHEREAS, the education of students of higher learning
6 institutions in New Mexico and Cuba could be enhanced through
7 information, programs and experiences shared between faculty
8 and students of those institutions; and

9 WHEREAS, New Mexico and Cuba have in common rich and
10 diverse cultures, and it would thus be appropriate to
11 facilitate communication and productive relationships to
12 benefit their respective economies, academic institutions and
13 cultural landscapes; and

14 WHEREAS, Las Vegas, New Mexico, and Banes, Cuba, as
15 members of the United States-Cuba sister city association, are
16 established as "sister cities", further signifying the
17 potential for a significant and beneficial relationship between
18 New Mexico and Cuba;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
20 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the economic
21 development department be requested to identify and study
22 opportunities for trade and for sharing of academic and
23 cultural resources between New Mexico and Cuba; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
25 transmitted to the secretary of economic development.

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