

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO ACTIVELY
3 PARTICIPATE IN THE WESTERN ROAD USAGE CHARGE CONSORTIUM
4 REGIONAL SYSTEM DEFINITION AND PILOT PLANNING PROJECT AND TO
5 PROPOSE LEGISLATION TO IMPLEMENT A MILEAGE-BASED USER FEE
6 SYSTEM IN NEW MEXICO.

7
8 WHEREAS, New Mexico's aging transportation
9 infrastructure is in dire need of improvements and presents a
10 safety hazard to those traveling on the state's roads; and

11 WHEREAS, improvements to New Mexico's transportation
12 infrastructure, including roads and bridges, are funded in
13 large part by the state's gasoline tax; and

14 WHEREAS, gasoline tax revenues are expected to decrease
15 in the future as a result of increasing passenger vehicle
16 fuel efficiency and increasing use of motor vehicles using
17 alternative fuels; and

18 WHEREAS, the use of hybrid electric or all electric
19 motor vehicles will further reduce gasoline tax revenue; and

20 WHEREAS, mileage-based user fees are an alternative
21 means or supplemental means of raising revenue for
22 transportation infrastructure improvements based upon the use
23 of transportation infrastructure rather than the consumption
24 of gasoline; and

25 WHEREAS, the adoption of mileage-based user fees will

1 help ensure that users of motor vehicles that use alternative
2 fuels or electricity will pay their fair share of
3 transportation infrastructure improvements; and

4 WHEREAS, mileage-based user fee systems can utilize
5 different options for tracking vehicle mileage, including
6 odometer readings and automatic mileage reporting systems
7 with or without general location data; and

8 WHEREAS, the western road usage charge consortium is an
9 organization that brings together leaders from state
10 transportation organizations of fourteen western states,
11 including New Mexico, to share best practices and research
12 regarding mileage-based user fees; and

13 WHEREAS, one western road usage charge consortium member
14 state, Oregon, has enacted a policy to implement a mileage-
15 based user fee system, and five other member states,
16 California, Colorado, Hawaii, Washington and Utah, are
17 currently testing mileage-based user fee pilot programs; and

18 WHEREAS, the western road usage charge consortium is
19 working on an innovative pilot project, the western road
20 usage charge consortium regional system definition and pilot
21 planning project, to develop and test a regional road usage
22 charge system; and

23 WHEREAS, eleven western road usage charge consortium
24 member states are participating in the western road usage
25 charge consortium regional system definition and pilot

1 planning project, but New Mexico is not participating; and

2 WHEREAS, federal funds are available to assist states in
3 developing and implementing mileage-based user fee systems,
4 including more than ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) awarded
5 to seven states by the federal highway administration in
6 February 2019; and

7 WHEREAS, New Mexico needs to become actively involved in
8 researching and evaluating options for implementing mileage-
9 based user fee systems in order to maintain sufficient
10 funding for improvements to the state's transportation
11 infrastructure;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
13 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the
14 department of transportation be requested to actively
15 participate in the western road usage charge consortium
16 regional system definition and pilot planning project and
17 research options for implementing mileage-based user fee
18 systems that would be suitable for New Mexico; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of
20 transportation present its recommendations, including
21 proposed implementing legislation, to the appropriate interim
22 legislative committees by November 1, 2019; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
24 transmitted to the governor and the secretary of
25 transportation.
