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HOUSE MEMORIAL 55

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2024

INTRODUCED BY

Jenifer Jones and Luis M. Terrazas and Crystal Diamond Brantley

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATURE TO PRIORITIZE AND ALLOCATE FUNDING FOR NEW MEXICO HIGHWAY 11 IMPROVEMENTS AND A TRUCK BYPASS CIRCUMNAVIGATING DEMING.

WHEREAS, New Mexico highway 11 serves as a vital transportation corridor in southwestern New Mexico, connecting the Columbus port of entry to interstate 10 and facilitating trade between New Mexico and Mexico; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico highway 11 is currently overused and diminishing in condition as heavy truck traffic increases, with the Columbus port of entry processing approximately five thousand six hundred trucks in 2008, sixteen thousand four hundred trucks in 2018 and over twenty-five thousand trucks in 2023; and

WHEREAS, this route experiences substantial seasonal

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1 increases in heavy truck traffic, particularly during harvest
2 seasons for crops such as chile and hay, with estimates of up
3 to seven hundred trucks passing through Columbus weekly; and

4 WHEREAS, this leads to further road deterioration, safety
5 concerns and congestion; and

6 WHEREAS, there are a multitude of new and future
7 developments that will intensify trade and traffic on New
8 Mexico highway 11 and through the city of Deming; and

9 WHEREAS, Mexico has invested in the improvement of its
10 roads near the New Mexico ports of entry; and

11 WHEREAS, Luna county has three existing industrial parks,
12 and there are plans to develop two hundred additional acres of
13 industrial park near the border by mid-2025 and a ninety-
14 thousand-square-foot cold storage facility near the Deming
15 airport; and

16 WHEREAS, in Luna county, there are plans to develop and
17 operate a forty-acre mine that for twenty years would produce
18 approximately three hundred thousand tons of dolomite per year;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, the capacity of New Mexico highway 11, especially
21 within the Deming city limits, is inadequate to handle the
22 current volume of heavy traffic, let alone the increase
23 expected from all of the recent and future developments; and

24 WHEREAS, the increasing traffic will exacerbate
25 congestion, disrupt local commerce, increase travel times and

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1 create safety hazards for motorists and pedestrians; and

2 WHEREAS, Luna county is currently working toward
3 establishing a dedicated truck route from the Columbus port of
4 entry to New Mexico highway 11, with estimated planning and
5 design costs of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) and total
6 construction costs of fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000);
7 and

8 WHEREAS, existing roads around Deming have the potential
9 to serve as truck relief routes, allowing trucks to bypass the
10 city center and alleviate congestion; and

11 WHEREAS, a corridor study has already been conducted to
12 evaluate a truck route around Deming that would include access
13 to interstate 10 and New Mexico highway 26; and

14 WHEREAS, this would require allocating funds to upgrade
15 existing infrastructure; and

16 WHEREAS, investing in these infrastructure improvements
17 would facilitate greater trade, improve freight mobility and
18 efficiency, reduce traffic congestion and enhance safety and
19 resident quality of life; and

20 WHEREAS, this would create jobs, attract further trade
21 from Mexico and stimulate economic growth;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
23 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico
24 legislature be requested to prioritize and allocate funding for
25 the rehabilitation and improvement of New Mexico highway 11

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1 from the border of Mexico north through Deming; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature be requested
3 to prioritize and allocate funding for the design and
4 construction of a dedicated truck route to bypass Deming by
5 utilizing existing roads in order to facilitate safe and
6 efficient freight corridors; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of
8 transportation be requested to actively pursue federal funding
9 opportunities and prioritize these infrastructure projects; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of
11 transportation solicit and incorporate the feedback and
12 expertise of staff, leaders and experts local to Luna county in
13 designing a truck route bypassing Deming; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
15 transmitted to each member of the house of representatives and
16 the secretary and deputy secretary of transportation.