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SENATE MEMORIAL 19

**57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

INTRODUCED BY

Crystal Brantley and Pat Boone and Candy Spence Ezzell  
and Pat Woods

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE  
PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO CONVENE A WORK GROUP TO DEVELOP  
A PLAN IN WHICH FIFTY PERCENT OF BEEF, CHEESE AND MILK SERVED  
IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS ORIGINATES FROM AND IS PROCESSED BY NEW  
MEXICO PRODUCERS.

WHEREAS, New Mexico boasts one of the most diverse  
agricultural industries in the United States, and the state is  
a leader in milk, cheese and beef production; and

WHEREAS, raising beef is a complex process, but throughout  
the entire journey, one thing remains constant – the shared  
commitment to raising cattle in a safe, humane and  
environmentally sustainable way by using the latest technology  
and resources, and today, there are more than one million four  
hundred thousand cattle and more than ten thousand cattle farms

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1 and ranches in New Mexico; and

2 WHEREAS, beef cattle ranching contributes a total of over  
3 sixteen thousand jobs with nearly one billion seven hundred  
4 million dollars (\$1,700,000,000) in output and nearly four  
5 hundred fifty million dollars (\$450,000,000) in labor income,  
6 yet only three-tenths of one percent of beef cattle ranches are  
7 non-family held corporations; and

8 WHEREAS, New Mexico has more than one hundred licensed  
9 dairy herds and the largest average herd size in the nation,  
10 two thousand seven hundred cattle; and

11 WHEREAS, New Mexico is currently ranked ninth in the  
12 nation for milk production and fourth in the nation for cheese  
13 production; and

14 WHEREAS, most of New Mexico's land use is agricultural,  
15 and agriculture and related industries contribute more than  
16 forty-eight thousand jobs, nearly six billion dollars  
17 (\$6,000,000,000) in output and more than two billion dollars  
18 (\$2,000,000,000) in labor income to New Mexico's economy; and

19 WHEREAS, beef, cheese and milk are crucial ingredients to  
20 providing healthy and nutritious meals to New Mexico students  
21 in public schools, and these ingredients can be cultivated from  
22 the state's robust agricultural industry;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
24 OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico department of agriculture and  
25 the public education department be requested to convene a work

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1 group to design a plan in which fifty percent of the beef,  
2 cheese and milk served to students in public schools originates  
3 from and is processed by New Mexico producers; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that representatives from the New  
5 Mexico cattle growers' association, dairy producers of New  
6 Mexico, southwest cheese and Tucumcari mountain cheese be  
7 invited to the work group; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group be requested to  
9 provide a report of its recommendations to the appropriate  
10 interim legislative committees studying agriculture and public  
11 education by September 1, 2025; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
13 transmitted to the New Mexico department of agriculture and the  
14 public education department for appropriate distribution.