

1 A MEMORIAL

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

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

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

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

24 WHEREAS, New Mexico has more than one hundred licensed  
25 dairy herds and the largest average herd size in the nation,

1 wo thousand seven hundred cattle; and

2 WHEREAS, New Mexico is currently ranked ninth in the  
3 nation for milk production and fourth in the nation for  
4 cheese production; and

5 WHEREAS, most of New Mexico's land use is agricultural,  
6 and agriculture and related industries contribute more than  
7 forty-eight thousand jobs, nearly six billion dollars  
8 (\$6,000,000,000) in output and more than two billion dollars  
9 (\$2,000,000,000) in labor income to New Mexico's economy; and

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

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
15 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico department of  
16 agriculture and the public education department be requested  
17 to convene a work group to design a plan in which fifty  
18 percent of the beef, cheese and milk served to students in  
19 public schools originates from and is processed by New Mexico  
20 producers; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group be requested  
22 to provide a report of its recommendations to the appropriate  
23 interim legislative committees studying agriculture and  
24 public education by November 1, 2025; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

1 transmitted to the New Mexico department of agriculture and  
2 the public education department for appropriate distribution. =

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