

**MINUTES
of the
FIFTH MEETING
of the
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY COMMITTEE**

**October 12, 2022
Event Space at D.H. Lescombes Winery and Tasting Room
7075 Highway 549 SE
Deming**

**October 13, 2022
War Eagles Air Museum
8012 Airport Road
Santa Teresa**

**October 14, 2022
Spaceport America
County Road A021
Truth or Consequences**

The fifth meeting of the Economic Development and Policy Committee was called to order by Representative Antonio Maestas, chair, on October 12, 2022 at 10:06 a.m. at the Event Space at D.H. Lescombes Winery and Tasting Room in Deming.

Present

Rep. Antonio Maestas, Chair
Sen. Carrie Hamblen, Vice Chair (10/12, 10/13)
Sen. Ron Griggs (10/12, 10/13)
Rep. Raymundo Lara (10/12, 10/13)
Rep. Tara L. Lujan
Sen. Michael Padilla (10/12)
Rep. Jane E. Powdrell-Culbert (10/12, 10/13)
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero
Rep. Linda Serrato (10/13, 10/14)
Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr. (10/12, 10/13)

Absent

Rep. Meredith A. Dixon
Rep. Kelly K. Fajardo
Rep. Joshua N. Hernandez
Sen. Leo Jaramillo
Rep. Georgene Louis
Rep. Willie D. Madrid
Rep. Kristina Ortez
Sen. Pat Woods

Advisory Members

Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon (10/12, 10/13)
Sen. Crystal R. Diamond
Rep. Rebecca Dow (10/14)
Rep. Pamela Herndon (10/14)
Sen. Cliff R. Pirtle (10/12)
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez (10/14)
Rep. Candie G. Sweetser

Rep. Anthony Allison
Rep. Gail Armstrong
Sen. Jacob R. Candelaria
Rep. Ambrose Castellano
Rep. Christine Chandler
Sen. Katy M. Duhigg
Rep. Doreen Y. Gallegos
Rep. Joy Garratt

Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill
Rep. Susan K. Herrera
Rep. Derrick J. Lente
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom
Rep. Rod Montoya
Rep. William "Bill" R. Rehm
Rep. Andrea Romero
Rep. Nathan P. Small
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics
Sen. Bill Tallman
Rep. Luis M. Terrazas

(Attendance dates are noted for members not present for the entire meeting.)

Staff

Erin Bond, Researcher, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
D. Martin Fischer, Staff Attorney, LCS
Nicole Waguespack, Researcher, LCS
Grecia Duarte, Intern, LCS

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file.

Handouts

Handouts and other written testimony are in the meeting file and posted on the legislature's website.

References to Webcast

The time reference noted next to each agenda item in this document is cross-referenced to the webcast of the committee meeting, which can be found at www.nmlegis.gov, under the "Webcast" tab. The presentations made and committee discussions for agenda items can be found on the recorded webcast for this meeting.

Wednesday, October 12 — Deming

Welcome and Introductions (10:06 a.m.)

Representative Maestas welcomed the committee, and committee members introduced themselves. Brandon Young, chief executive officer, Lescombes Family Vineyards, welcomed the committee and shared information about the vineyard. Benny Jasso, mayor, City of Deming, welcomed the committee and shared some of Deming's history with the committee.

Copper Mining in New Mexico: New Mexico Copper Corporation (10:35 a.m.)

Jeff Smith, chief operating officer, New Mexico Copper Corporation, presented information about society's changing resource needs, which is driving the demand for copper

higher. He also discussed the Copper Flat Project and its benefits to New Mexico. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/EDPC%20101222%20Item%201%20The%20Copper%20Flat%20Project.pdf>.

Education and the Economy: The Importance of Research and Development (11:27 a.m.)

Dr. Joseph Shepard, president, Western New Mexico University, discussed the economic importance of educational research and development and the expected return on investment from these endeavors. Matthew Gallegos, executive director, Tech Transfer Collaborative Office, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, spoke about the key economic development indicators of research expenditures and graduate degrees conferred in New Mexico. Ganesh Balakrishnan, director, New Mexico Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR), spoke about the EPSCoR's various programs, including its Sustainable Modular Adaptive Resilient Transactive Grid Center and its funding programs for research and cyber infrastructure and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) workforce development. David Hanson, Ph.D., assistant vice president for research, University of New Mexico, discussed using research to drive economic development, focusing on clean water, clean energy and meeting the needs of indigenous and rural communities. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/EDPC%20101222%20Item%202%20Impact%20of%20Research%20and%20Development.pdf>.

Developing New Mexico's Geothermal Economy (1:24 p.m.)

Senator Gerald Ortiz y Pino provided an overview of geothermal heat as a clean, zero-emission source of heat and electricity, and he emphasized the need to amend New Mexico's statutes to promote geothermal development and resources. Tom Solomon, electrical engineer and facilitator, Geothermal Development Working Group, and co-coordinator, 350 New Mexico, spoke about the need to pass legislation that supports a two-phase geothermal development to expand geothermal resources and promote long-term development of geothermal electricity. He also discussed geothermal technology, opportunities, funding and developments. Shari Kelley, Ph.D., senior geophysicist and field geologist, Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, presented information on the current state of geothermal resources in the United States and in New Mexico. Olga Lavrova, Ph.D., associate professor, College of Engineering, New Mexico State University (NMSU), spoke about the NMSU Campus Geothermal Project that constructed geothermal infrastructure to provide hot water and space heat to campus buildings and facilities. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/EDPC%20101222%20Item%203%20Geothermal%20Electricity.pdf>.

Workforce and Livability: A Strategic Approach to Recruit, Retain and Expand Opportunities in Rural New Mexico (2:36 p.m.)

Aaron Sera, city administrator, City of Deming, welcomed the committee members and spoke about Deming's prioritization of outdoor recreation and recent construction of Trees Lake. Cassie Arias-Ward, economic and tourism development coordinator, City of Deming, gave an overview of Deming's economic development, including its strengths, opportunities and challenges. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/EDPC%20101222%20Item%204%20Deming%20Workforce%20and%20Livability.pdf>.

Benefits of Daylight Saving Time (3:00 p.m.)

Senator Pirtle spoke about the history and effects of a permanent daylight saving time statute. Scott Yates, founder, #LocktheClock, discussed the main benefits of such a law, including reducing the incidence of strokes, traffic and work accidents, deaths and crime.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 3:56 p.m.

Thursday, October 13 — Santa Teresa

Welcome and Introductions (9:39 a.m.)

Representative Maestas welcomed the committee, and committee members introduced themselves. Javier Perea, mayor, City of Sunland Park, welcomed the committee and provided a brief history of Sunland Park. Mario Juarez-Infante, interim city manager, City of Anthony, and acting city manager, City of Sunland Park, spoke about Sunland Park's efforts to capitalize on its natural resources and environment, especially through parks, trails, a new sports complex, entertainment district development and the port of entry. He also spoke about the City of Anthony's recent economic developments. Elva Flores, mayor pro tempore, City of Anthony, introduced herself and welcomed the committee. John Harris, chief executive officer, Memorial Medical Center, spoke about developing the health center. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=EDPC&Date=10/12/2022&ItemNumber=0>.

International Trade in New Mexico (10:51 a.m.)

Jerry Pacheco, president, Border Industrial Association, and executive director, New Mexico International Business Accelerator, spoke about his organizations' work. Joshua Orozco, international business specialist, New Mexico International Business Accelerator, presented information about New Mexico's exports and the effects exports have on the economy. Joseph

De La Rosa, special projects manager, Department of Transportation, discussed the information and communication technology and electronic vehicle industries forming in the states near the Mexico border. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=EDPC&Date=10/12/2022&ItemNumber=6>.

Union Pacific Update on Investments in Santa Teresa (1:01 p.m.)

Raquel Espinoza, senior director of public relations, Union Pacific, presented information on Union Pacific's operations, its impact on the economy, recent developments and the advantages of train transportation. J.D. Bullington, lobbyist, Union Pacific, emphasized the points Ms. Espinoza made. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/EDPC%20101222%20Item%207%20Union%20Pacific%20Santa%20Teresa%20Update.pdf>.

Building the Border Economy: Border Industrial Association (2:09 p.m.)

Marco A. Grajeda, executive director, Border Authority, presented information on the Border Authority's recent successes with funding, projects, capital and increased revenue. He also detailed the current and future projects of the Border Authority. Mr. Pacheco spoke about Santa Teresa as a rail hub and detailed its infrastructure and assets. He provided updates on various projects in Santa Teresa. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=EDPC&Date=10/12/2022&ItemNumber=8>.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Tour of Border Industrial Association (3:30 p.m.)

Recess

The meeting recessed at 5:00 p.m.

Friday, October 14 — Truth or Consequences

Welcome (10:30 a.m.)

Travis Day, commissioner, District 2, Sierra County Board of County Commissioners, welcomed the committee and highlighted the expected economic benefits and opportunities of Spaceport America and improved broadband access.

The Economics of the Mescalero Apache Tribe (10:41 a.m.)

Adrena Orosco, secretary and councilwoman, Mescalero Apache Tribe, and Nelva Cervantes, general counsel, Mescalero Apache Tribe, introduced the tribe, spoke about its history and highlighted the tribe's economic development efforts and future projects. Sarah

Kazhe, director of marketing, Inn of the Mountain Gods Resort and Casino, discussed the amenities and projects of the inn. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/EDPC%20101222%20Item%209%20Mescalero%20Apache%20Tribe.pdf>.

Update from Spaceport America (11:55 a.m.)

Scott McLaughlin, executive director, Spaceport America, spoke about Spaceport America's recent activities, budget, capital improvements, business development and growth strategy, highlighting the Spaceport America Cup 2022 and STEM-related activities. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/EDPC%20101222%20Item%2010%20Spaceport%20America.pdf>.

Tour of Virgin Galactic (1:00 p.m.)

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.