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SENATE MEMORIAL 21

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002

INTRODUCED BY

William H. Payne

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TO CONSIDER
LOCATING THE HOMELAND DEFENSE COMMAND AT KIRTLAND AIR FORCE
BASE IN ALBUQUERQUE.

WHEREAS, the nation's military assets are organized under
a unified combatant command system that allows for the
simultaneous and efficient deployment and operation of units
from each of the military branches; and

WHEREAS, the department of defense currently operates at
least nine unified combatant commands, including
geographically based commands and operationally based
commands; and

WHEREAS, the number of unified combatant commands is not
fixed by law or regulation and may vary from time to time, and
the United States secretary of defense is considering creating

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1 a homeland defense command in the wake of the September 11,
2 2001 terrorist attacks on America; and

3 WHEREAS, the creation of a homeland defense command is a
4 meritorious idea that would enhance the security of the United
5 States and protect its residents and visitors; and

6 WHEREAS, Kirtland air force base in Albuquerque, New
7 Mexico, is uniquely suited to serve as the headquarters for
8 the homeland defense command, given its commercial airport and
9 military air base infrastructure; its proximity to Sandia
10 national laboratories, Los Alamos national laboratory, the New
11 Mexico institute of mining and technology and White Sands
12 missile range; and the amenities offered by a major
13 metropolitan area;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
15 OF NEW MEXICO that the United States secretary of defense be
16 requested to consider establishing the headquarters for the
17 homeland defense command at Kirtland air force base in
18 Albuquerque, New Mexico; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
20 transmitted to the United States secretary of defense, the
21 United States secretary of energy, the members of the New
22 Mexico congressional delegation and the Kirtland partnership
23 committee.