

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
DEPARTMENT AND THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO  
SUPPORT THE COMPLETION OF THE RIO GRANDE TRAIL.

WHEREAS, the Rio Grande, the second largest river system  
in the country, flows nearly five hundred miles through the  
heart of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the Rio Grande is a precious lifeline that  
connects nature, history, culture and communities across  
millennia; and

WHEREAS, the 2004 statewide comprehensive outdoor  
recreation plan identified trails as the number one recreation  
priority for the public in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, across the United States, trails are important  
components of recreation, tourism, economic development,  
conservation, alternative transportation, education and health  
and fitness strategies; and

WHEREAS, an extensive network of routes suitable for  
trail use by the public already exists along large portions of  
the Rio Grande valley; and

WHEREAS, the development of a Rio Grande trail along as  
much of the river corridor as feasible and appropriate would  
create significant public benefits for New Mexico by  
connecting communities, promoting recreation and healthy

lifestyles, stimulating tourism and economic development and supporting river and bosque education and protection; and

WHEREAS, the development of the Rio Grande trail will require a multiyear effort involving the cooperation and commitment of diverse local, state, federal, tribal and private entities; and

WHEREAS, route selection and planning for the Rio Grande trail must respect all landowners, especially private landowners and the sovereign governments of New Mexico's tribes and pueblos; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature has appropriated four million dollars (\$4,000,000) for the first phases of planning, design and construction of the Rio Grande trail;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the proposed Rio Grande trail be a project of statewide and national significance that should be completed as soon as possible for the benefit of present and future generations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state parks division of the energy, minerals and natural resources department be the lead agency for the completion of the Rio Grande trail; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislature endeavor to support completion of the Rio Grande trail by providing, to the extent possible, regular, sustained funding to the energy, minerals and natural resources department to

facilitate planning, environmental compliance, route designation, construction and maintenance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state parks division of the energy, minerals and natural resources department endeavor to develop and stimulate private sector, nongovernmental participation and support for the Rio Grande trail that supplements public funds for the project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of transportation be requested to partner with the energy, minerals and natural resources department in the project and provide, to the maximum extent feasible, funding from the federal transportation enhancement program to help complete the Rio Grande trail; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico congressional delegation be requested to endeavor to support completion of the Rio Grande trail by encouraging the participation of affected federal agencies in the project and by seeking appropriate federal funding support from diverse sources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural resources, the secretary of transportation and the members of the New Mexico congressional delegation.