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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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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