

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE TO RECOGNIZE, ENCOURAGE  
AND SUPPORT GENERAL AVIATION IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, general aviation plays a critical role in the  
lives and safety of New Mexicans and in the operations of the  
state's businesses, ranches and farms; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico has a vested and significant  
interest in the continued vitality of general aviation, the  
aerospace industry, aircraft and aircraft systems  
manufacturing, aviation education institutions, charter flight  
businesses, community airports and airport operators that  
provide jobs and economic growth statewide; and

WHEREAS, according to the department of transportation's  
New Mexico airport system plan update 2009, aviation in New  
Mexico supports nearly fifty thousand jobs, generates over one  
billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000) in payroll annually and  
produces over three billion dollars (\$3,000,000,000) in  
economic activity in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, given New Mexico's size and geography, many  
businesses and communities depend on aviation of all types for  
mobility, medical and emergency transport, education,  
agriculture, economic opportunity, search and rescue  
activities and a wide range of critical resources; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico has a rich heritage of military

aviation and hosts and supports three major United States air force bases; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico's general aviation airports house three air tanker bases that provide crucial firefighting response capabilities in New Mexico and adjoining states; and

WHEREAS, aircraft-related manufacturing, testing and research and development businesses and organizations are integral to the aviation economy of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, aviation-related tourism brings in over sixty-one million dollars (\$61,000,000) to New Mexico each year, and many of the state's communities depend heavily upon aviation and airports for a continued flow of commerce, tourists and visitors; and

WHEREAS, organizations such as the New Mexico pilots association, the New Mexico airport managers' association, the experimental aircraft association, the aircraft owners and pilots association, the alliance for aviation across America, the national business aviation association, the national association of state aviation officials and the national air transportation association recognize and promote the interests and importance of aviation in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico's centennial celebrations included recognition of the following aspects of the state's rich aviation heritage: the first use of military aviation in warfare; the first aerial demonstration at New Mexico's first

state fair; the flying farmers' key role in the first transcontinental air transport route; the world's largest balloon festival in Albuquerque; the vital military training undertaken in New Mexico; Charles Lindbergh's development of aerial archaeology; Felix Baumgartner's historic balloon ascent and supersonic free fall into New Mexico; and the legacies of aviators such as William Cutter, who flew the first air ambulance in 1928;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the contribution that general aviation has made in New Mexico's history and economy be recognized; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature recognize, encourage and support the efforts of all who contribute to and participate in aviation of all kinds throughout this land of enchantment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the New Mexico pilots association, the New Mexico airport managers' association, the experimental aircraft association, the aircraft owners and pilots association, the alliance for aviation across America, the national business aviation association, the national association of state aviation officials and the national air transportation association.