

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 42

2 **51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 John Pinto

5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 URGING THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO IDENTIFY AND  
12 DEDICATE FUNDS TO FINISHING THE UNITED STATES HIGHWAY 491  
13 PROJECT.

14  
15 WHEREAS, in recent years, New Mexico has made a generous  
16 contribution to finishing United States highway 491, which runs  
17 from Gallup to Shiprock; and

18 WHEREAS, the highway is the primary artery for travel  
19 through many of the chapters of the Navajo Nation and the only  
20 highway for those going from Gallup to the Four Corners area;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, the highway has been used for the transport of  
23 uranium and, therefore, may have high concentrations of  
24 radioactive residue along its shoulders, and the highway  
25 probably has more pedestrian traffic than any other in the

.191526.1

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

underscored material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 state; and

2 WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation has dedicated large sums of  
3 money for completion of the highway; and

4 WHEREAS, managing to piece together the funding for  
5 construction of the highway has been a difficult and  
6 complicated process, particularly because easements and rights  
7 of way are held by many separate people, as well as by states,  
8 tribes and the federal government; and

9 WHEREAS, finding and dedicating the funding is especially  
10 important because the highway, despite the fact that it carries  
11 heavy and slow truck traffic across the state, is only two  
12 lanes wide in places; and

13 WHEREAS, through dedication and persistence, New Mexico  
14 and the Navajo Nation have acquired approximately one-third of  
15 the funding needed to broaden the highway to four lanes;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
17 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico congressional  
18 delegation be urged to help identify funds that can be used to  
19 complete the United States highway 491 project; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico congressional  
21 delegation be urged to stay in close touch with legislative  
22 leadership so that a funding strategy can be developed; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico congressional  
24 delegation be assured that the legislature is prepared to help  
25 in the efforts to find funding for completion of the United

.191526.1

underscoring material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 States highway 491 project; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
3 transmitted to the members of New Mexico's congressional  
4 delegation, to the president and speaker of the council of the  
5 Navajo Nation, to the secretary of transportation, to members  
6 of the state transportation commission, to the governor and to  
7 the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative council.