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HOUSE MEMORIAL 31

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016

INTRODUCED BY

Matthew McQueen

A MEMORIAL

EXPRESSING SUPPORT AND ENDORSING THE PROCESS FOR THE CREATION
OF A STATEWIDE RESILIENCY PLAN.

WHEREAS, New Mexico agriculture is among the most diverse
in the nation; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, agriculture production in New Mexico
totaled three billion seven hundred million dollars
(\$3,700,000,000) as reported by the New Mexico department of
agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the total value of agriculture-sector production
is valued over four billion dollars (\$4,000,000,000) when
forest products sold and other farm income are included; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico continues to be among the nation's
leaders in chile and pecans, producing twenty-five and four-
tenths percent of the nation's production in both crops; and

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1 WHEREAS, in 2014, one hundred sixteen organic farms and
2 ranches produced over thirty-four million four hundred thousand
3 dollars (\$34,400,000) in sales; and

4 WHEREAS, a statewide resiliency plan could strengthen the
5 agriculture sector in New Mexico and encourage the necessary
6 support and development for this important part of the state's
7 economy; and

8 WHEREAS, a resilient New Mexico food and agriculture
9 system, capable of withstanding new challenges and advancing to
10 new successes, will require both a strong export-oriented
11 commodity agriculture sector and a robust local food system for
12 small- to medium-sized family farms and ranches; and

13 WHEREAS, New Mexico first has hosted regional meetings
14 focused on the creation of a statewide resiliency plan to:

15 A. create common ground regarding food and
16 agriculture policies;

17 B. generate ideas for more economic value for
18 producers and economic vitality for communities;

19 C. develop strategies to support young people who
20 want to stay with, or get back into, agriculture;

21 D. address water, land-use, climate and economic
22 challenges facing the agriculture industry;

23 E. support agriculture's contributions to health-
24 related solutions for consumers and communities; and

25 F. contribute to worker, consumer and community

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welfare; and

WHEREAS, this initiative presents a unique opportunity to bring together a diverse group of agriculture stakeholders to identify industry trends, challenges and solutions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it express its support and endorse the New Mexico first agriculture planning process for the creation of a statewide resiliency plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the director of the New Mexico department of agriculture and the director of New Mexico first.