

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8

2 **52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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8 FOR THE LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

9
10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT AND THE BORDER
12 AUTHORITY TO JOINTLY CREATE THE "NEW MEXICO-CHIHUAHUA SHARED
13 INTEREST TASK FORCE" TO FACILITATE THE CULTIVATION AND
14 ENHANCEMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO STATES.

15
16 WHEREAS, New Mexico and the state of Chihuahua of the
17 Republic of Mexico share a common geographical border; and

18 WHEREAS, a significant portion of New Mexico's border with
19 Chihuahua includes southern Dona Ana county; and

20 WHEREAS, there is significant economic growth in southern
21 Dona Ana county; and

22 WHEREAS, the state of Chihuahua experienced seven percent
23 economic growth in 2015; and

24 WHEREAS, the Santa Teresa port of entry for United States
25 immigration and customs at the border with Chihuahua is

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1 experiencing increased traffic and inspections due to economic
2 growth; and

3 WHEREAS, the Santa Teresa port of entry is reaching
4 capacity, but federal budget restraints make expansion
5 challenging, although an increase in capacity is necessary to
6 continue economic expansion in the Santa Teresa cross-border
7 area; and

8 WHEREAS, the Union Pacific railroad has recently completed
9 a main railyard near Santa Teresa for expanded east-west rail
10 traffic, and a feasibility study is under way for moving north-
11 south rail traffic from the El Paso, Texas-Ciudad Juarez,
12 Chihuahua, urban area to the Santa Teresa vicinity; and

13 WHEREAS, the Santa Teresa/San Jeronimo combined port of
14 entry is a model of a cross-border development, supporting a
15 bi-national community with coordinated master plans, foreign
16 trade zones, industrial efficiency, a secured border region,
17 quality residential living, joint health care and educational
18 programs and combined truck, rail and air service that create a
19 globally competitive industrial and logistics platform; and

20 WHEREAS, the New Mexico state government and the
21 Chihuahuan state government have great respect for each other
22 and enjoy the benefits of cultural, economic and political
23 cooperation; and

24 WHEREAS, the trade and Mexican affairs division of the
25 economic development department is responsible for conducting

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1 and coordinating the state's relations with the Republic of
2 Mexico and the state of Chihuahua; and

3 WHEREAS, New Mexico has established the New Mexico-
4 Chihuahua commission, composed of the governor and New Mexico
5 legislators, executive branch leaders and business leaders
6 appointed by the governor, to stimulate trade efforts with
7 Chihuahua, focusing on border crossings and infrastructure,
8 education, economic development and trade, health, public
9 safety, tourism and water, which meets regularly, culminating
10 in an annual meeting between the governors of the two states;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, the universidad Autonoma de Chihuahua and New
13 Mexico state university offer a joint educational program, and
14 there is great potential for more such collaborative efforts
15 between institutions of higher learning in both states; and

16 WHEREAS, in the fall of 2015, the legislative finance
17 committee, together with other New Mexico government and
18 education leaders, made a field trip to Chihuahua to meet with
19 Chihuahuan government leaders and business owners. The
20 meetings advanced cooperation between the states, promoted job
21 growth, increased educational opportunities and stimulated
22 cultural awareness; and

23 WHEREAS, New Mexico and Chihuahua's shared history,
24 language and culture provide opportunities to enrich the well-
25 being of residents of both states; and

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1 WHEREAS, New Mexico desires to continue its initiatives to
2 advance cooperation between the states, promoting job growth,
3 increased educational opportunities and cultural awareness; and

4 WHEREAS, there is great future value in a regular schedule
5 of meetings between government, education and business leaders
6 from both states to address and improve relations regarding
7 transportation and other infrastructure needs along the border,
8 joint education programs and initiatives, joint cultural
9 undertakings, economic development priorities and trade,
10 academic and political missions;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
12 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the economic development department
13 and the border authority be requested to jointly create a task
14 force, to be known as the "New Mexico-Chihuahua shared interest
15 task force". The function of the task force should be the
16 improvement of relations and development of shared
17 opportunities between the two states. The focus of the task
18 force should be transportation and border infrastructure,
19 economic development priorities, joint educational and cultural
20 initiatives and future trade, academic and political missions;
21 and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico-Chihuahua
23 shared interest task force be composed of members of the
24 legislature appointed by the New Mexico legislative council;
25 representatives of New Mexico executive agencies, including the

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1 economic development department, the department of
2 transportation, the border authority and the office of the
3 state engineer; representatives from New Mexico's institutions
4 of higher education; and representatives from New Mexico's
5 business community; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico-Chihuahua
7 shared interest task force be requested to convene quarterly
8 meetings during each of calendar years 2016 and 2017 and to
9 report the substance of the meetings and recommendations for
10 legislative action to the legislative finance committee and to
11 appropriate interim legislative committees prior to January
12 2018; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
14 transmitted to the governor of New Mexico, the governor of the
15 state of Chihuahua, the secretary of economic development, the
16 secretary of transportation, the state engineer and the
17 secretary of higher education.