

1 HOUSE MEMORIAL 77

2 **54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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5 Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales and Rodolpho "Rudy" S. Martinez and  
6 Harry Garcia

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10 A MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO ACTIVELY  
12 PARTICIPATE IN THE WESTERN ROAD USAGE CHARGE CONSORTIUM  
13 REGIONAL SYSTEM DEFINITION AND PILOT PLANNING PROJECT AND TO  
14 PROPOSE LEGISLATION TO IMPLEMENT A MILEAGE-BASED USER FEE  
15 SYSTEM IN NEW MEXICO.

16  
17 WHEREAS, New Mexico's aging transportation infrastructure  
18 is in dire need of improvements and presents a safety hazard to  
19 those traveling on the state's roads; and

20 WHEREAS, improvements to New Mexico's transportation  
21 infrastructure, including roads and bridges, are funded in  
22 large part by the state's gasoline tax; and

23 WHEREAS, gasoline tax revenues are expected to decrease in  
24 the future as a result of increasing passenger vehicle fuel  
25 efficiency and increasing use of motor vehicles using

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1 alternative fuels; and

2 WHEREAS, the use of hybrid electric or all electric motor  
3 vehicles will further reduce gasoline tax revenue; and

4 WHEREAS, mileage-based user fees are an alternative means  
5 or supplemental means of raising revenue for transportation  
6 infrastructure improvements based upon the use of  
7 transportation infrastructure rather than the consumption of  
8 gasoline; and

9 WHEREAS, the adoption of mileage-based user fees will help  
10 ensure that users of motor vehicles that use alternative fuels  
11 or electricity will pay their fair share of transportation  
12 infrastructure improvements; and

13 WHEREAS, mileage-based user fee systems can utilize  
14 different options for tracking vehicle mileage, including  
15 odometer readings and automatic mileage reporting systems with  
16 or without general location data; and

17 WHEREAS, the western road usage charge consortium is an  
18 organization that brings together leaders from state  
19 transportation organizations of fourteen western states,  
20 including New Mexico, to share best practices and research  
21 regarding mileage-based user fees; and

22 WHEREAS, one western road usage charge consortium member  
23 state, Oregon, has enacted a policy to implement a mileage-  
24 based user fee system, and five other member states,  
25 California, Colorado, Hawaii, Washington and Utah, are

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1 currently testing mileage-based user fee pilot programs; and

2 WHEREAS, the western road usage charge consortium is  
3 working on an innovative pilot project, the western road usage  
4 charge consortium regional system definition and pilot planning  
5 project, to develop and test a regional road usage charge  
6 system; and

7 WHEREAS, eleven western road usage charge consortium  
8 member states are participating in the western road usage  
9 charge consortium regional system definition and pilot planning  
10 project, but New Mexico is not participating; and

11 WHEREAS, federal funds are available to assist states in  
12 developing and implementing mileage-based user fee systems,  
13 including more than ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) awarded  
14 to seven states by the federal highway administration in  
15 February 2019; and

16 WHEREAS, New Mexico needs to become actively involved in  
17 researching and evaluating options for implementing mileage-  
18 based user fee systems in order to maintain sufficient funding  
19 for improvements to the state's transportation infrastructure;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
21 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department  
22 of transportation be requested to actively participate in the  
23 western road usage charge consortium regional system definition  
24 and pilot planning project and research options for  
25 implementing mileage-based user fee systems that would be

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1 suitable for New Mexico; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of  
3 transportation present its recommendations, including proposed  
4 implementing legislation, to the appropriate interim  
5 legislative committees by November 1, 2019; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
7 transmitted to the governor and the secretary of  
8 transportation.

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