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HOUSE MEMORIAL 1

**55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021**

INTRODUCED BY

Susan K. Herrera and Roger Montoya

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO STUDY THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF REGIONAL MOBILE LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER UNITS TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR SMALL RANCHERS TO HAVE THEIR LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERED, CUT AND WRAPPED FOR PERSONAL USE OR INTRASTATE SALE.

WHEREAS, in 2006, the Taos county economic development corporation received five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) from the New Mexico legislature to establish, equip and operate New Mexico's first mobile livestock slaughter unit, which operated until its closure in 2018 due to a lack of operational funding; and

WHEREAS, the mobile livestock slaughter unit was initiated to assist northern New Mexico livestock producers who were contending with high livestock slaughter costs and the absence

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1 of in-state commercial livestock slaughter facilities with cut  
2 and wrap features; and

3 WHEREAS, the New Mexico livestock board no longer provides  
4 meat inspection, which puts small livestock producers at a  
5 significant disadvantage; and

6 WHEREAS, New Mexico livestock producers must transport  
7 their animals out-of-state to commercial livestock slaughter  
8 facilities with cut and wrap services in Texas, Colorado and  
9 Arizona, which can be a prohibitive expense for many producers;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, the Taos county mobile livestock slaughter unit  
12 demonstrated the need for state support for a low-cost,  
13 efficient alternative to shipping livestock out of state to  
14 United States department of agriculture-certified facilities  
15 for slaughter, cut and wrap; and

16 WHEREAS, the agriculture industry and livestock production  
17 generate over three billion dollars (\$3,000,000,000) annually;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, the loss of oil and gas tax revenue and jobs  
20 points to the critical need for economic diversification, and  
21 the establishment of regional mobile livestock slaughter units  
22 will aid farmers and ranchers in growing their share of the  
23 state's economy as well as contributing tax revenue to rural  
24 local governments and the state and providing the state's  
25 residents with access to locally sourced food; and

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1           WHEREAS, national and international food systems and food  
2 production have been negatively affected by the coronavirus  
3 disease 2019 crisis and this has increased dependence on more  
4 localized food systems and food production; and

5           WHEREAS, livestock producers and farmers' markets, food  
6 system collaboratives and other farm-to-table advocates  
7 continue to express demand for mobile livestock slaughter  
8 services in New Mexico; and

9           WHEREAS, there are questions about how to structure,  
10 support and deliver mobile livestock slaughter services to  
11 revive this much-needed service and offer it statewide through  
12 regionalization;

13           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
14 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico  
15 department of agriculture, with the assistance of the New  
16 Mexico livestock board and the New Mexico farm and ranch  
17 resource center at New Mexico state university, be requested to  
18 conduct a comprehensive study of the feasibility of a  
19 statewide, regionally structured state-supported system to  
20 provide mobile livestock slaughter services to support the  
21 livestock industry, local economies and residents of the state;  
22 and

23           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include a survey of  
24 small livestock producers as to the utility of regional mobile  
25 livestock slaughter services and consult the 2007-2016

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1 production reports and data collected by the Taos county  
2 economic development corporation on the operation of its mobile  
3 livestock slaughter unit and the 2018 topical study by the  
4 Thornburg foundation; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study also include:

6 A. a description of a model mobile livestock  
7 slaughter, cut and wrap system, including meat inspection for  
8 intrastate sales;

9 B. based on the livestock producers survey,  
10 recommendations on the number and location of mobile livestock  
11 slaughter unit regions and, if feasible, opportunities for co-  
12 housing with the cooperative extension service or other  
13 agricultural-related offices in those regions;

14 C. recommendations on the best organizational  
15 structure for the mobile livestock slaughter units, including  
16 oversight and administrative attachment responsibilities of a  
17 state agency such as the New Mexico department of agriculture,  
18 the New Mexico livestock board or another state agency or  
19 institution;

20 D. best practices for regional management and  
21 operations; and

22 E. estimates of start-up costs and monthly and  
23 annual capital and production costs; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico department of  
25 agriculture submit its report to the interim committee that is

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1 concerned with economic and rural development issues by  
2 December 1, 2021; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
4 transmitted to the board of regents of New Mexico state  
5 university, the New Mexico department of agriculture and the  
6 New Mexico livestock board.

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