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SENATE MEMORIAL 20

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY
ALTERNATIVE USES FOR STATE FAIRGROUNDS PROPERTY THAT COULD
PROVIDE A PERMANENT REVENUE STREAM TO FUND FAIRGROUND
OPERATIONS AND THAT WOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH SURROUNDING CITY
AND COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE.

WHEREAS, the Expo New Mexico state fair is one of the
largest fairs in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Expo New Mexico state fairgrounds currently
leases its buildings and property for a variety of exhibitions
and commercial purposes, including a racetrack and casino, and
hosts a state fair annually for approximately seventeen days;
and

WHEREAS, Expo New Mexico is in need of additional funds
for maintenance and operations of the New Mexico state

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1 fairgrounds; and

2 WHEREAS, Expo New Mexico state fairgrounds is located in
3 Albuquerque, the largest urban center in New Mexico, and the
4 property is surrounded by land used for commercial, office and
5 residential purposes; and

6 WHEREAS, the potential exists to identify new uses for
7 state fairgrounds property that could provide a permanent
8 revenue stream to fund fairgrounds maintenance and operations,
9 be compatible with the educational purposes of the fairgrounds
10 as set forth in statute, be compatible with the surrounding
11 urban development infrastructure and enhance the economy and
12 the development character of the surrounding urban areas; and

13 WHEREAS, six neighborhood associations recognized by the
14 city of Albuquerque share a border with the state fairgrounds;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, these associations are eager to participate in
17 efforts to identify alternative uses for state fairgrounds
18 property and are already actively engaged in planning efforts
19 that will meet the mutual needs of the fairgrounds and the
20 eclectic combination of residential and commercial neighbors
21 that are contiguously located there;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
23 OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be requested to convene a task
24 force to study alternative uses for state fairgrounds property
25 that could provide a permanent revenue stream to fund

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1 fairgrounds operations and that would be compatible with
2 surrounding city and county development and infrastructure; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include
4 representation from the state fair commission, legislators
5 whose districts include neighborhoods surrounding the state
6 fairgrounds, a neighborhood association located in Albuquerque
7 city council district six, a neighborhood association located
8 in Albuquerque city council district seven, Albuquerque city
9 management, the Bernalillo county board of county commissioners
10 and the economic development department; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force consider such
12 potential options as public and private partnerships to create
13 a business park, shops that lease the fairgrounds land, a
14 complex of charter schools and the location of a complex of
15 state and municipal government offices and departments on the
16 fairgrounds; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force identify and
18 consider other income-producing options that would be
19 compatible with the surrounding neighborhoods and city and
20 county development and infrastructure; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a report of the findings and
22 recommendations of the task force be presented to the
23 appropriate interim legislative committee by October 2011; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the negotiations on the
25 Albuquerque downs and casino lease be suspended until the

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1 findings and recommendations are received and reviewed by the
2 New Mexico legislature in order to preserve the potential for
3 new uses identified by the task force; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
5 transmitted to the governor, the chair of the state fair
6 commission, the president of each of the six neighborhood
7 associations recognized by the city of Albuquerque that share a
8 border with the state fairgrounds, the secretary of economic
9 development, the president of the Albuquerque city council, the
10 mayor of Albuquerque and the chair of the Bernalillo county
11 board of county commissioners.