

The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

48th Legislature, 2nd Session

LAWS 2008

CHAPTER _____

HOUSE MEMORIAL 44

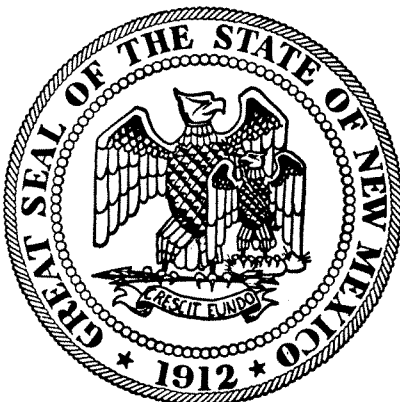
Introduced by

REPRESENTATIVE ANTONIO "MOE" MAESTAS

REPRESENTATIVE AL PARK

REPRESENTATIVE LARRY A. LARRAÑAGA

REPRESENTATIVE HENRY "KIKI" SAAVEDRA



1 A MEMORIAL

2 EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS TO MAKE MOUNTAIN WEST
3 CONFERENCE GAMES AVAILABLE ON BASIC CABLE TELEVISION AND
4 SATELLITE TELEVISION AND REQUESTING THE APPROPRIATE INTERIM
5 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE IN THE EVENT THAT A
6 SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION IS NOT REACHED BY THE SPRING OF 2008.

7
8 WHEREAS, the university of New Mexico is a member of the
9 Mountain West Conference; and

10 WHEREAS, the Mountain West Conference is on the brink of
11 breaking into the bowl championship series, which is currently
12 made up of the top six conferences in the nation, including
13 the Big 10, PAC 10, Big 12, Big East, Southeastern and
14 Atlantic Coast Conferences; and

15 WHEREAS, the Mountain West Conference has an exclusive
16 long-term contract with a network established by CSTV
17 Networks, Inc., and Comcast Cable, called "the mtn.", short
18 for the "Mountain West Sports Network"; and

19 WHEREAS, the 2006 announcement of this deal stated that
20 "CSTV will be added to Comcast's digital basic systems in
21 Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico"; and

22 WHEREAS, the common understanding of "basic cable" is
23 that all cable subscribers receive certain programs without
24 extra charges or without being required to buy a premium
25 package; and

1 WHEREAS, the Mountain West Sports Network is not part of
2 basic cable service anywhere in New Mexico, is unavailable via
3 satellite television providers such as DirecTV and DISH Network
4 and is not even available as an extra cost option outside the
5 larger municipalities in the state; and

6 WHEREAS, cable television companies are granted
7 monopolies by local governments throughout the state, but they
8 have not been required to offer the Mountain West Sports
9 Network as part of basic cable service; and

10 WHEREAS, as government-endorsed cable television
11 monopolies, these companies should be required to provide
12 coverage of local news and sports programs as part of their
13 basic service package, especially if these programs are made
14 otherwise unavailable because of deals made by these same
15 cable companies; and

16 WHEREAS, United States senators from New Mexico, Utah,
17 Wyoming and Colorado have all expressed concern about the
18 inability of cable and satellite companies to come to an
19 agreement that will allow all subscribers in those states
20 access to Mountain West Conference games;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
22 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that current
23 efforts to have the Mountain West Sports Network made part of
24 basic cable service and also for it to be offered on satellite
25 television networks be supported; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if this problem is not
2 resolved by the spring of 2008, the appropriate interim
3 legislative committee be requested to investigate the problem
4 and make recommendations for legislation to address the
5 problem to the forty-ninth legislature; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
7 transmitted to the chief executive officers of Comcast Cable
8 and CSTV Networks, Inc., the commissioners of the Mountain
9 West Conference, the president of the University of New Mexico
10 and the New Mexico legislative council.

11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

S/ BEN LUJAN
BEN LUJAN, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

S/ STEPHEN R. ARIAS
STEPHEN R. ARIAS, CHIEF CLERK
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES