

The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

48th Legislature, Second Session

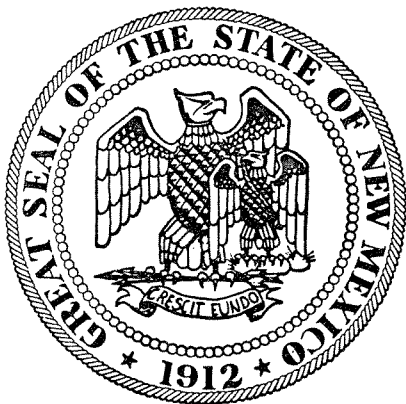
LAWS 2008

CHAPTER _____

SENATE MEMORIAL 49

Introduced by

SENATOR LINDA M. LOPEZ
SENATOR JAMES G. TAYLOR



1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO APPOINT A
3 COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE NEED FOR AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS AND
4 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ASSIST
5 IN THE STUDY.

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7 WHEREAS, farming and ranching are the lifeblood of New
8 Mexico, with centuries upon centuries of Native American,
9 Hispanic and Anglo families making their living and their
10 lives from the land; and

11 WHEREAS, agriculture is vital to New Mexico's economy,
12 environment and culture and it is important to conserve,
13 protect, encourage, develop and improve agricultural land for
14 the production of agricultural products and to reduce the
15 loss to the state of its agricultural resources by limiting
16 the conversion of farmland or ranchland to development; and

17 WHEREAS, in many parts of the state, agricultural
18 resources are in danger from urban pressures, such as land
19 being taken out of production for development and
20 agricultural water rights being sold for urban uses; and

21 WHEREAS, thousands of agricultural acres each year are
22 prematurely or unnecessarily converted to urban uses and
23 farms and ranches are impinged upon by urban sprawl; and

24 WHEREAS, as urban centers expand, the resulting increase
25 in land values discourages investments in farm and ranch

1 improvements;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council
4 be requested to appoint an interim committee to study the
5 need to protect agricultural resources in New Mexico through
6 the creation of agricultural districts, the use of
7 conservation easements, the limiting of eminent domain powers
8 and other methods; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico department of
10 agriculture be requested to assist the committee in its
11 study; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee report its
13 findings and recommendations to the first session of the
14 forty-ninth legislature; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
16 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative
17 council.

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s/Diane D. Denish
Diane D. Denish, President
Senate

s/Lenore M. Naranjo
Lenore M. Naranjo, Chief Clerk
Senate