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HOUSE MEMORIAL 56

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2024

INTRODUCED BY

Raymundo Lara and Joy Garratt

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES CONVENE
A MEETING WITH COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES ALONG THE STATE'S
BORDER WITH MEXICO TO STUDY THE BORDER DEVELOPMENT ACT AND TO
DRAFT LEGISLATION THAT UPDATES THE BORDER DEVELOPMENT ACT TO
INCREASE TRANSPARENCY AND OVERSIGHT.

WHEREAS, the Border Development Act was enacted in 1991,
establishing the border authority to "encourage and foster
development of the state, its cities and counties by developing
port facilities at international ports of entry"; and

WHEREAS, the Border Development Act has not been amended
since 2011; and

WHEREAS, since then, the United States economy has
experienced development due to geopolitical shifts, global
supply chain resets, climate change and a rapidly emerging

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1 electric vehicle industry; and

2 WHEREAS, the border authority is currently
3 administratively attached to the economic development
4 department; and

5 WHEREAS, administrative attachment to the economic
6 development department may not provide the growth and
7 visibility of this important initiative; and

8 WHEREAS, the Border Development Act does not specify
9 professional requirements for border authority membership,
10 which may result in limited knowledge and skill sets in this
11 niche area of government; and

12 WHEREAS, the composition of the border authority should be
13 amended to be more inclusive of both the executive and
14 legislative branches; and

15 WHEREAS, the border authority only reports to the New
16 Mexico finance authority oversight committee regarding general
17 border activities and annual budget requests; and

18 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial for the border authority
19 to report to other committees, such as the legislative finance
20 committee; and

21 WHEREAS, reporting requirements for state agencies provide
22 oversight and transparency to the legislature and the public;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, the border authority is not authorized by statute
25 to promulgate rules; and

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1 WHEREAS, the Border Development Act should be amended to
2 address these issues and to reflect the current needs of the
3 border authority;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico
6 association of counties be requested to convene a meeting of
7 counties and municipalities along the state's border with
8 Mexico to study the Border Development Act, to draft
9 legislation that updates the Border Development Act to increase
10 transparency and accountability and to inform the state of the
11 value of the border authority in overseeing economic and other
12 growth along the border; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Border Development Act be
14 updated through this proposed legislation to reflect the new
15 economic circumstances of the authority; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this proposed legislation
17 amend the composition of members of the border authority to
18 include members from the legislature who will work with the
19 governor's appointees; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the border authority regularly
21 update its website and information about membership, projects,
22 contracts, memoranda of agreement and discussions between the
23 United States and Mexico, as appropriate; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this proposed legislation be
25 presented to the appropriate interim committees dealing with

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1 economic development and infrastructure during the 2024
2 interim; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
4 transmitted to the executive director of the New Mexico
5 association of counties.

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