

1 A MEMORIAL

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

7
8 WHEREAS, in 2006, the Taos county economic development
9 corporation received five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000)
10 from the New Mexico legislature to establish, equip and
11 operate New Mexico's first mobile livestock slaughter unit,
12 which operated until its closure in 2018 due to a lack of
13 operational funding; and

14 WHEREAS, the mobile livestock slaughter unit was
15 initiated to assist northern New Mexico livestock producers
16 who were contending with high livestock slaughter costs and
17 the absence of in-state commercial livestock slaughter
18 facilities with cut and wrap features; and

19 WHEREAS, the New Mexico livestock board no longer
20 provides meat inspection, which puts small livestock
21 producers at a significant disadvantage; and

22 WHEREAS, New Mexico livestock producers must transport
23 their animals out-of-state to commercial livestock slaughter
24 facilities with cut and wrap services in Texas, Colorado and
25 Arizona, which can be a prohibitive expense for many

1 producers; and

2 WHEREAS, the Taos county mobile livestock slaughter unit
3 demonstrated the need for state support for a low-cost,
4 efficient alternative to shipping livestock out of state to
5 United States department of agriculture-certified facilities
6 for slaughter, cut and wrap; and

7 WHEREAS, the agriculture industry and livestock
8 production generate over three billion dollars
9 (\$3,000,000,000) annually; and

10 WHEREAS, the loss of oil and gas tax revenue and jobs
11 points to the critical need for economic diversification, and
12 the establishment of regional mobile livestock slaughter
13 units will aid farmers and ranchers in growing their share of
14 the state's economy as well as contributing tax revenue to
15 rural local governments and the state and providing the
16 state's residents with access to locally sourced food; and

17 WHEREAS, national and international food systems and
18 food production have been negatively affected by the
19 coronavirus disease 2019 crisis and this has increased
20 dependence on more localized food systems and food
21 production; and

22 WHEREAS, livestock producers and farmers' markets, food
23 system collaboratives and other farm-to-table advocates
24 continue to express demand for mobile livestock slaughter
25 services in New Mexico; and

1 WHEREAS, there are questions about how to structure,
2 support and deliver mobile livestock slaughter services to
3 revive this much-needed service and offer it statewide
4 through regionalization;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
6 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New
7 Mexico department of agriculture, with the assistance of the
8 New Mexico livestock board and the New Mexico farm and ranch
9 resource center at New Mexico state university, be requested
10 to conduct a comprehensive study of the feasibility of a
11 statewide, regionally structured state-supported system to
12 provide mobile livestock slaughter services to support the
13 livestock industry, local economies and residents of the
14 state; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include a survey
16 of small livestock producers as to the utility of regional
17 mobile livestock slaughter services and consult the 2007-2016
18 production reports and data collected by the Taos county
19 economic development corporation on the operation of its
20 mobile livestock slaughter unit and the 2018 topical study by
21 the Thornburg foundation; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study also include:

23 A. a description of a model mobile livestock
24 slaughter, cut and wrap system, including meat inspection for
25 intrastate sales;

1 B. based on the livestock producers survey,
2 recommendations on the number and location of mobile
3 livestock slaughter unit regions and, if feasible,
4 opportunities for co-housing with the cooperative extension
5 service or other agricultural-related offices in those
6 regions;

7 C. recommendations on the best organizational
8 structure for the mobile livestock slaughter units, including
9 oversight and administrative attachment responsibilities of a
10 state agency such as the New Mexico department of
11 agriculture, the New Mexico livestock board or another state
12 agency or institution;

13 D. best practices for regional management and
14 operations; and

15 E. estimates of start-up costs and monthly and
16 annual capital and production costs; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico department of
18 agriculture submit its report to the interim committee that
19 is concerned with economic and rural development issues by
20 December 1, 2021; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the board of regents of New Mexico state
23 university, the New Mexico department of agriculture and the
24 New Mexico livestock board.
