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HOUSE MEMORIAL 68

**51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013**

INTRODUCED BY

Eliseo Lee Alcon

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION SECURE FEDERAL FUNDING TO  
ELIMINATE HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSINGS IN MCKINLEY AND CIBOLA  
COUNTIES AND REPLACE THEM WITH NEW RAILROAD BRIDGES.

WHEREAS, demand and use of railroad freight service is  
forecast to grow significantly in the near future; and

WHEREAS, the length of rail cars and the number of trains  
have increased a great deal over recent years; and

WHEREAS, additional rail traffic is raising safety  
concerns and creating long delays; and

WHEREAS, emergency vehicles have been blocked at rail  
crossings, remaining stopped for significant periods of time;  
and

WHEREAS, a respectful working relationship between all

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1 stakeholders has created a fruitful safety culture that aims to  
2 address the harm caused in impacted communities; and

3 WHEREAS, in good faith, the Burlington northern Santa Fe  
4 railway company is responding with capital expenditure to match  
5 funding; and

6 WHEREAS, investing in new bridges can improve safety by  
7 separating rail and vehicular traffic, and also will allow  
8 trains to travel faster, to the greater economic benefit to the  
9 nation; and

10 WHEREAS, the investment may be a catalyst for job creation  
11 and improve rail service reliability for on-time performance;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
13 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the United  
14 States department of transportation federal railroad  
15 administration and the New Mexico congressional delegation be  
16 requested to secure federal funding to build new railroad  
17 bridges in impacted communities in McKinley and Cibola  
18 counties; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
20 transmitted to the United States secretary of transportation,  
21 the Burlington northern Santa Fe railway company, the New  
22 Mexico secretary of transportation, the Navajo Nation division  
23 of transportation and the Pueblo of Laguna urban transportation  
24 planning division.