

March 11, 2025

To: The Honorable Representative Javier Martinez,  
Speaker of the New Mexico House of Representatives

Re: Senate Bill 481, establishing the State Fair TIDD

Dear Mr. Speaker,

There is deep and widespread concern about the future of the state fairgrounds among community members in and around the International District. We will be watching the process of developing a master plan for the fairgrounds and look forward to being included at the table while that process unfolds. Regardless of the outcome of the master planning process, any changes will require a powerful entity to guide and finance changes there. That entity should also be responsive to the local community as well as supporting a vision for maintaining and improving the quality of life of people that live and work in the International District.

We are appreciative and grateful for the work Senate President Pro-Tempore, Senator Mimi Stewart, has done to create a Tax Increment Development District (TIDD) that we think could have that power and responsiveness.

Specifically, Senate Bill 481 defines and creates the possibility of using resources generated by the TIDD for community benefit, a definition that includes affordable housing, job creation, open space and health services; (page 2, line 17).

The legislation creates the potential for creation of "workforce and affordable housing" as a public improvement (page 5, line 5) and, most importantly, the ability of the TIDD to "grant, donate or otherwise dispose of property of the district in accordance with the Local Economic Development Act, the Affordable Housing Act or the provisions of Article 9, Section 14 of the constitution of New Mexico" (page 6, line 10).

Our community has already been in the process of creating a community land trust for just this purpose. We believe the TIDD could be the engine to prevent gentrification through appreciation of land values as a result of redevelopment by buying many currently vacant, abandoned, and derelict properties that would otherwise wind up in the hands of private investors. Those properties, through the TIDD, should become affordable housing instead.

We especially appreciate that the board is composed of members who are directly connected to the people who live closest to the fairgrounds, ~~a designee of~~ the state senator, member of the house of representatives, the county commissioner, and the city councilor representing the districts inclusive of the district (page 7, line 23ff).

Finally, the casino was opposed by many in the community; today it's a reality and it won't be moving soon. We are glad to see that the TIDD will capture of 75 percent of Gross Receipts Tax



(GRT) and gaming tax revenue generated by the casino for use to create community benefit, especially affordable housing.

The undersigned urge your support and engagement with the community as the critical legislation moves through the process and through the House.

Sincerely,

John Bultene, East Central Ministries

William William Mutoyo, East Central Ministries

LSBTE District Community member CLT

~~Turkache~~ ID/CLT Advisory Committee

Enrique Cardel ~~420 Indiana St SE~~

Patricia ~~of~~ District 11

David Cooper II

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Osoria; Guillermo, AR. IDHCC CCHWS3

Atunela, neighbor

Mph Leila M Satim

~~Grace Brown~~

Abi Blueher



~~Anthony~~ - Southwest Organizing Project - Project Feed the Hood

Stephen L Balling - Community Leader

Ashley Charzue - NM Harm Reduction collaborator

Rae Lewis - community member

Ben A - Ben Aronson - community member & community health worker

Elizabeth Smith - ID/CLT Board member.

Dellisa Ramirez - UNM Student (Environmental Planning)

Nicolas Rockman - ID Resident, AmeriCorps, Bern Co Parks, UNM student

JERRY TRUPELL -