

GRANT COUNTY
NEW MEXICO

Resolution No. 07-21

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
EXPANDING THE "25-MILE GEOGRAPHICAL LIMIT" FOR MEXICAN
NATIONALS TRAVELING WITHIN THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO WITH
LASER VISAS TO AT LEAST 75 MILES.

WHEREAS, the Laser Visa was created to allow frequent, low-risk visitors to cross the border to shop or visit with their families; and

WHEREAS, current rules permit individuals to travel up to 25 miles into the country without having to pay an additional fee, secure an I-94, and undergo a secondary inspection; and

WHEREAS, recently, DHS announced that it was extending the length of time visitors holding Laser Visas are permitted to remain in the U.S. from 72 hours to 30 days; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, the former Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) promulgated a rule with respect to Arizona that allows individuals to travel up to 75 miles into the state from certain ports-of-entry; because most large cities along the border are approximately 70 miles from the border, businesspersons, tourists, and frequent visitors were not able to travel directly to the city without having to acquire additional documentation to engage in the same commercial activity that occurs daily at cities along the border; and

WHEREAS, this rule change has resulted in greatly expanded commercial activity along the border in many states without compromising security; and

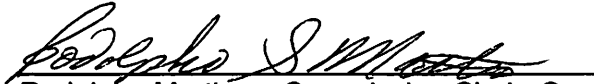
WHEREAS, we believe that the rationale for extending the geographical limit in Arizona is equally applicable to the State of New Mexico as the three largest cities along the New Mexico border, Las Cruces, Lordsburg, and Deming, are all outside of the current 25-mile geographical limit and Mexican nationals seeking to visit the cities must acquire additional permits to do so; and

WHEREAS, as a result, New Mexico has not benefited from the Laser Visa to the extent that other states have; and

WHEREAS, extending the limit to at least 75 miles would increase economic activity in New Mexico and would not impact our ability to secure our borders.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GRANT COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, that it be known that the Grant County Board of County Commissioners enthusiastically supports the efforts of the NMBA, in this endeavor to bring this worthwhile geographical limit to New Mexico.

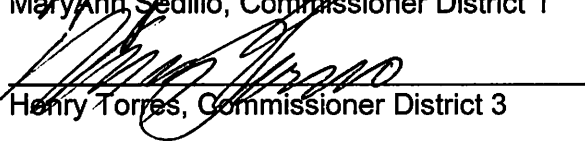
PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 21st day of May, 2007.



Rodolpho Martinez, Commission Chair, Commissioner District 2



Mary Ann Sedillo, Commissioner District 1



Henry Torres, Commissioner District 3

Attest:



Henry "Howie" Morales, PhD. Grant County Clerk

Approved as to form:


Hans William Voss, Grant County Attorney