

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
SANTA FE COUNTY  
RESOLUTION NO. 2019 - 42**

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**A RESOLUTION URGING THE NEW MEXICO STATE LEGISLATURE  
TO ENACT THE HEALTHY SOIL ACT, HOUSE BILL 204, DURING THE 2019  
LEGISLATIVE SESSION AND DIRECTING STAFF TO EXPLORE  
WAYS TO INCENTIVIZE SOIL HEALTH IMPROVEMENTS**

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**WHEREAS**, House Bill 204, the Healthy Soil Act (the Act), has been introduced in the 2019 Legislative session; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the Act is to support land management practices that improve the health, yield, and profitability of soils in New Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, if passed, the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) would be tasked to work with eligible entities such as the soil and water conservation districts, tribes, pueblos, land grants or acequia associations to promote soil health stewardship, create a program to provide ongoing trainings and facilitate workshops, collaborate with technical service providers, and educate the public about the importance of soil health stewardship; and

**WHEREAS**, under the Act, the NMDA will support local economic development for local food grown with healthy soil management practices; and

**WHEREAS**, under the Act, eligible entities may apply for grants to advance soil health and soil health stewardship with priority given to those entities or districts servicing young producers, veterans, and small farms or ranches, or for projects that benefit economically or socially disadvantaged communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Act will provide assistance for agriculture in Santa Fe County and help it remain viable for future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, Santa Fe County recognizes the importance of soil health and is actively working to improve soil health conditions and mitigate erosion on County Open Space properties; and

**WHEREAS**, the Act asks NMDA to identify ways to increase the generation and use of compost to build healthy soils and directly supports the work being done in Santa Fe County through multiple public and private initiatives to improve soil health by composting food waste; and

**WHEREAS**, New Mexico's farmers and ranchers and other land managers are essential to soil restoration, constitute major economic drivers and are of great cultural importance to the citizens of this state; and

**WHEREAS**, soil restoration on working lands has a wide range of benefits, including improved watershed health and water quality, better water infiltration and retention of soils, reduced soil erosion, increased productivity of lands, lowered agricultural costs from reduced inputs, increased resistance to drought and pests, greater resilience to extreme weather events, increased levels of sequestration of atmospheric carbon, superior nutrient density of crops and forage, enhanced pollinator and wildlife habitat, and an overall benefit to rural communities; and

**WHEREAS**, incentivizing soil health stewardship among farmers, ranchers, and land managers will boost the economic viability of New Mexico's working lands and lead to greater vitality of our rural communities.

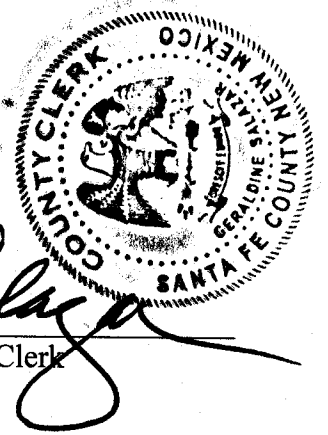
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County, that:

1. The Board supports House Bill 204 and urges the New Mexico State Legislature to adopt this Bill during the 2019 legislative session.
2. The Board urges the New Mexico Association of Counties to support House Bill 204 during the 2019 legislative session.
3. The County Manager shall direct staff to explore ways to support initiatives to incentivize agriculture utilizing healthy soil management practices.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON THIS 12<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MARCH, 2019.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY

Anna T. Hamilton  
Anna T. Hamilton, Chair



APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ATTESTATION:

R. Bruce Frederick  
R. Bruce Frederick, County Attorney

Geraldine Salazar  
Geraldine Salazar, County Clerk

COUNTY OF SANTA FE )  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss

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I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
Record On The 13TH Day Of March, 2019 at 10:56:42 AM  
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1880976  
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County



Witness By Hand And Seal Of Office  
Geraldine Salazar  
Deputy Estrella Martinez County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM