Resolution #2017-50
Supporting the 2018 Legislative Priorities of the New Mexico Association of Counties and Re-Affirming Support for Amendments to the Whistleblower Protection Action

WHEREAS, in August 2017, the Board of Directors of the New Mexico Association of Counties approved five legislative priorities for consideration by the New Mexico Legislature at its 2018 regular legislative session; *and*

WHEREAS, NMAC has requested that the Board of County Commissioners in each of the state's 33 counties discuss and approve a resolution supporting NMAC's legislative priorities; *and*

WHEREAS, this is an important step in assuring maximum understanding of, and support for, NMAC's legislative priorities at the county level; *and*

WHEREAS, the adoption of such resolutions will enable NMAC to demonstrate to the state legislature strong local and statewide support for NMAC's legislative priorities; *and*

WHEREAS, the legislative priorities include support for legislation on the following five issues:

- **Forfeiture Act Reform**
  Support legislation that would correct the unintended consequences of the 2015 amendments to the NM Forfeiture Act to address federal equitable sharing, storage of abandoned property, and expand local authority to seize and dispose of forfeited property while preserving due process protections.

- **Protecting County Funding of Healthcare**
  Support the significant involvement of county policy makers in federal, state, and local healthcare, human services, and Medicaid planning, funding, and service delivery decision- making, and oppose any measure that would further shift federal and state healthcare costs to county government.

- **Tax Reform**
  Support legislation that protects county revenue and does not have a negative impact on county government. NMAC strongly believes that counties must be at the table for and fully participate in all tax reform efforts; strives to minimize tax policy that places counties and other local governments in conflict; and opposes any efforts that reduce the state's hold harmless distribution to counties or that reduces county GRT authority.

- **Local Election Act**
  Support legislation that would enact the Local Election Act, aligning the date for local, non-partisan elections with taxation authority, to the same day in the odd-numbered year.

- **Extend 2014 HB16 Liquor Tax Distribution Sunset**
  Support legislation that would permanently increase the distribution percentage to the local DWI grant fund.

WHEREAS, the NMAC Board, in August of 2016, approved and the Curry County Board of County Commissioners at their public meeting on August 23, 2016 adopted a resolution supporting legislation modifying the Whistleblower Protection Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Curry County Board of County Commissioners does hereby support the legislative priorities of the New Mexico Association of Counties as set forth above, and urges that legislation incorporating these priorities be enacted by the state legislature during its 2018 regular session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Curry County approves support of legislative action on:

- **Whistleblower Protection Act**
  Support amendments to, among other things, better define the definition of "good faith" by requiring some minimal threshold of evidence to file a claim, narrow the definition of "retaliatory action," limit "unlawful or improper act(s)" to violations of state or federal law, and narrow the universe of individuals to whom a complaint may be communicated as a precondition to filing a claim.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Curry County Board of County Commissioners re-affirm our strong support for legislative amendments to the Whistleblower Protection Act.

ADOPTED this 19th of September, 2017.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
CURRY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

Ben L. McDaniel, Chair

Angelina Baca, Vice Chair

Chet Spear, Member

Robert Thornton, Member

Benjamin Smith, Member

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CURRY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

ATTEST:

Annie Hogland
County Clerk