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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING EXPANSION OF THE USE OF CITIZEN SCIENCE BY STATE AGENCIES AND REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO DECLARE A "CITIZEN SCIENCE DAY".

WHEREAS, New Mexico is a beautiful state that is rich in natural resources and filled with individuals who take great pride in the state's environment; and

WHEREAS, state agencies manage nearly fifty-three million acres of land but lack the resources to fully monitor this land; and

WHEREAS, wild friends is a unique, award-winning civics education program at the university of New Mexico school of law whose mission is to provide a statewide, experiential education that integrates civics and wildlife law to help students understand the democratic process, develop citizenship skills and contribute to wildlife conservation; and

WHEREAS, one area in which wild friends contributes to its community is through citizen science; and

WHEREAS, citizen science is a collaboration among community members, state government and the scientists who manage the state's public lands in which citizens volunteer to help collect data about plants, animals, air quality and water quality; and

1           WHEREAS, citizen science can provide valuable data while  
2 fostering scientific literacy and community engagement,  
3 ensuring that the state thrives through future generations of  
4 environmental stewards; and

5           WHEREAS, citizen science can engage the youth, provide  
6 exposure to a variety of science-based careers and expand  
7 STEM-based education opportunities; and

8           WHEREAS, in the 2024 legislative session, the house of  
9 representatives passed House Memorial 34, which requested  
10 several state agencies to create a working group to develop  
11 recommendations for expanding the use of citizen science in  
12 New Mexico, and this working group prepared a report and is  
13 taking steps to integrate citizen science into state  
14 agencies; and

15           WHEREAS, encouraging other state agencies to use citizen  
16 science can help more people, especially the youth, to become  
17 aware, involved and concerned about real world issues and  
18 help time-constrained scientists to collect data; and

19           WHEREAS, establishing a "Citizen Science Day" will help  
20 educate other state agencies and the public about the  
21 benefits of citizen science;

22           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
23 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the house of  
24 representatives recognize the importance of citizen science  
25 and its role in engaging the youth and the public in science

1 and the outdoors and assisting state agencies in collecting  
2 valuable data that are otherwise difficult to collect; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to  
4 declare a "Citizen Science Day" and recognize wild friends  
5 and the many New Mexico residents and projects that have made  
6 significant contributions to citizen science across this  
7 state and many more; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education  
9 department, the New Mexico outdoor recreation division of the  
10 economic development department, the higher education  
11 department and the New Mexico department of agriculture be  
12 requested to review the working group report titled  
13 "Recommendations to Expand the Use of Citizen Science in  
14 State Agencies in New Mexico" and provide recommendations to  
15 integrate citizen science, especially for the youth, into the  
16 agencies; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
18 transmitted to the public education department, the New Mexico  
19 outdoor recreation division of the economic development  
20 department, the higher education department and the New Mexico  
21 department of agriculture for appropriate distribution. \_\_\_\_\_

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