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HOUSE MEMORIAL 31

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

INTRODUCED BY

Linda Serrato

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

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1 and contribute to wildlife conservation; and

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

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

9 WHEREAS, citizen science can provide valuable data while
10 fostering scientific literacy and community engagement,
11 ensuring that the state thrives through future generations of
12 environmental stewards; and

13 WHEREAS, citizen science can engage the youth, provide
14 exposure to a variety of science-based careers and expand STEM-
15 based education opportunities; and

16 WHEREAS, in the 2024 legislative session, the house of
17 representatives passed House Memorial 34, which requested
18 several state agencies to create a working group to develop
19 recommendations for expanding the use of citizen science in New
20 Mexico, and this working group prepared a report and is taking
21 steps to integrate citizen science into state agencies; and

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

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1 WHEREAS, establishing a "Citizen Science Day" will help
2 educate other state agencies and the public about the benefits
3 of citizen science;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the house of
6 representatives recognize the importance of citizen science and
7 its role in engaging the youth and the public in science and
8 the outdoors and assisting state agencies in collecting
9 valuable data that are otherwise difficult to collect; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to
11 declare a "Citizen Science Day" and recognize wild friends and
12 the many New Mexico residents and projects that have made
13 significant contributions to citizen science across this state
14 and many more; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
16 department, the New Mexico outdoor recreation division of the
17 economic development department, the higher education
18 department and the New Mexico department of agriculture be
19 requested to review the working group report titled
20 "Recommendations to Expand the Use of Citizen Science in State
21 Agencies in New Mexico" and provide recommendations to
22 integrate citizen science, especially for the youth, into the
23 agencies; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
25 transmitted to the public education department, the New Mexico

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1 outdoor recreation division of the economic development
2 department, the higher education department and the New Mexico
3 department of agriculture for appropriate distribution.

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