HOUSE MEMORIAL 7

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021

INTRODUCED BY

Ambrose Castellano and Roger Montoya

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING HISPANICS ENJOYING CAMPING, HUNTING, AND THE OUTDOORS AND SUPPORTING A NEW MEXICO PUBLIC LANDS CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP COUNCIL TO HELP ELEVATE THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF HISPANIC CULTURE, TRADITIONS AND PERSPECTIVES IN STRENGTHENING THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CONSERVATION OF PUBLIC LANDS AND WATERS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

WHEREAS, New Mexico is rooted in a rich and multicultural history, with forty-seven percent of the population having Hispanic ancestry; and

WHEREAS, Hispanics have a strong connection to the nation's diverse landscapes and practice centuries-old traditions, such as fishing, hunting, farming, ranching and wood, plant and piñon nut gathering, that require the protection of public lands and waters; and

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WHEREAS, the Hispano customs of caring for and cultivating the land responsibly and governing water for communities through acequias are foundational to New Mexican heritage; and

WHEREAS, many New Mexico watersheds provide critical water resources to communities, including municipal, domestic and agricultural users, and provide clean water to numerous ancient and agriculturally and culturally significant acequia systems; and

WHEREAS, querencia, or love for the land, is a deeply held value that connects southwestern Hispanics to a past, present and future sense of belonging and purpose, is a principle that prioritizes conservation for future generations and is a pillar of what the group Hispanics enjoying camping, hunting, and the outdoors, more commonly known as HECHO, is founded on; and

WHEREAS, HECHO was established in the southwest and was founded to empower Hispanic leaders to engage their communities in the conservation of public lands; and

WHEREAS, HECHO provides a platform for Hispanic voices to be heard with respect to the protection of public lands, healthy watersheds, clean air and robust wildlife habitats; and

WHEREAS, HECHO, in working toward building a robust public lands conservation leadership council in New Mexico, encourages everyone to join and support this effort and HECHO's mission; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for effective policies that
safeguard public lands for all; and

   WHEREAS, Hispanos endeavor to continue to enjoy, and
practice and pass down, cultural traditions that depend on
public lands; and

   WHEREAS, Hispanic leaders endeavor to be widely recognized
for contributions to public land conservation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the importance
of public participation of all New Mexicans, including Hispanic
New Mexicans, in decisions and processes concerning public
lands and waters be affirmed by the legislature; and

   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature express
support for HECHO in the creation of a public lands
conservation council of Hispanic leaders to build capacity and
create a formalized network of Hispanic public lands leaders to
increase participation and representation of Hispanics in such
matters; and

   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature recognize the
important role that HECHO fills in ensuring that Hispanic
Americans and Hispano cultural and traditional uses of the land
are included in decisions about public lands and waters; and

   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature recognize
HECHO as a group that connects and unites Hispanic leaders to
engage their communities in the conservation of public lands
and waters and fosters strong, culturally rich communities

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connected to nature and each other; and

    BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
transmitted to the governor, members of the New Mexico
congressional delegation, the commissioner of public lands, the
New Mexico state director of the federal bureau of land
management, the director of the intermountain regional office
of the United States national park service, the director of the
department of game and fish, the southwest regional director of
the United States fish and wildlife service and the regional
forester of the southwestern regional office of the United
States forest service.

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