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1 Virginia; and

2 WHEREAS, butterflies enhance the beauty of the
3 environment, and naming a butterfly symbol would benefit
4 tourism and the economy of New Mexico by bringing attention to
5 a New Mexico butterfly, by adding credibility to New Mexico
6 among entomologists, which may encourage scientific research
7 in the state, and by providing educational opportunities for
8 study and appreciation of the butterfly and its habitat; and

9 WHEREAS, naming a New Mexico butterfly would enhance
10 awareness of the importance of butterflies, in ecosystems as
11 important pollinators for wildflowers and agricultural crops
12 and promote the conservation of our natural wildlife heritage;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, children love butterflies, and naming a New
15 Mexico butterfly would bring joy to New Mexico's children; and

16 WHEREAS, the Sandia hairstreak butterfly is thought of as
17 uniquely New Mexican; and

18 WHEREAS, the Sandia hairstreak symbolizes the ability of
19 New Mexican residents to thrive year-round in a semiarid
20 climate where different years bring floods and droughts and
21 where the terrain is beautiful but rugged; and

22 WHEREAS, the Sandia hairstreak is one of about twenty-
23 five different species of hairstreaks in the gossamer-wing
24 family residing in New Mexico, and it is small and gold and
25 green in color and it lives in and among beargrass plants,

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1 where its pink, lavender and white caterpillars eat beargrass
2 flowers, making the butterfly and its caterpillar easy to
3 identify; and

4 WHEREAS, the Sandia hairstreak was discovered in
5 Albuquerque in 1959 in La Cueva canyon and can be easily found
6 by children among the native beargrass in New Mexico's wide-
7 open spaces as well as in towns and cities where the beargrass
8 plant grows; and

9 WHEREAS, the Sandia hairstreak, a New Mexico native, does
10 not migrate, but stays in the New Mexico landscape year-round
11 and has not been designated as the state butterfly for any
12 other state;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
14 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the appropriate legislative interim
15 committee be requested to consider recommendations for the
16 adoption of the Sandia hairstreak, a native New Mexican
17 butterfly, as the official state butterfly, which contributes
18 to the beauty, diversity and enchantment of the New Mexico
19 landscape; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appropriate state
21 agencies be encouraged to promote the Sandia hairstreak, a
22 native New Mexican butterfly, as the official state butterfly,
23 which contributes to the beauty, diversity and enchantment of
24 the New Mexico landscape; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

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1 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of state, the
2 tourism department, the state parks division of the energy,
3 minerals and natural resources department, the state land
4 office and other appropriate state agencies; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the wild friends dancers be
6 commended for raising public awareness of the butterfly with
7 their original dance presentation entitled "The New Mexico
8 Gossamer Wing" at the 2002 legislative session.

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