

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE
3 DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH HOLD A WORKSHOP TO IDENTIFY FUTURE
4 PROJECTS AND FUNDING TO HELP REDUCE WILDLIFE-VEHICLE
5 COLLISIONS; REQUESTING THAT THE GOVERNOR DECLARE A WILDLIFE
6 SAFETY AWARENESS DAY.

7
8 WHEREAS, in 2011, the New Mexico legislature passed
9 House Joint Memorial 10, which requested that the department
10 of transportation, the department of game and fish and
11 New Mexico state police work together to create a traffic
12 safety pilot project to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, the pilot project, which includes tree and
15 shrub trimming and the installation of traffic signs and
16 flashing lights, is underway on United States route 64 near
17 Chama, New Mexico; and

18 WHEREAS, roads, such as United States route 64, often
19 run through areas that wildlife has used for thousands of
20 years, and the competition for space poses a significant
21 problem for wildlife on the move, especially large animals
22 such as deer, elk, bear, pronghorn antelope and mountain
23 lions; and

24 WHEREAS, wildlife safety zones that incorporate measures
25 such as reduced speed limits, trimmed vegetation, flashing

1 traffic lights, traffic signs and increased fines for traffic
2 violations, can increase driver awareness and help protect
3 humans and wildlife from unnecessary and brutal injury or
4 death; and

5 WHEREAS, reducing wildlife-vehicle collisions will, in
6 turn, reduce the number of collision-related deaths and
7 injuries sustained by people and wildlife, the number of
8 valuable state game animals lost to collisions and the cost
9 of collision-related medical care, vehicle repair and
10 insurance; and

11 WHEREAS, in Colorado, Idaho, Florida, California,
12 Pennsylvania, Washington and Arizona, wildlife safety zones
13 have proven to reduce collisions and save the lives of people
14 and wildlife; and

15 WHEREAS, the most current information on where and how
16 often wildlife-vehicle collisions occur in New Mexico was
17 developed at a 2003 critical mass workshop and that
18 information needs to be updated; and

19 WHEREAS, it is estimated that more than half of all
20 collisions between vehicles and large animals are unreported;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, New Mexico youth would like the issue of
23 wildlife-vehicle collisions resolved so future generations of
24 children will have the pleasure of seeing wildlife in its
25 natural habitat rather than only in zoos or dead on

1 New Mexico roads;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of transportation and
4 the department of game and fish be requested to use existing
5 resources to work with the university of New Mexico division
6 of government research to hold a 2013 critical mass workshop
7 by June 30, 2013 in order to help collect and map current
8 data showing where wildlife-vehicle collisions occur in
9 New Mexico and to produce a list of road segments in New
10 Mexico that have the greatest number of wildlife-vehicle
11 collisions; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the departments be requested
13 to send a joint report on the 2013 critical mass workshop and
14 follow-up activities to the appropriate legislative interim
15 committee by October 1, 2013; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the departments be requested
17 to apply for funding from the New Mexico highway safety
18 improvement program for use in establishing additional
19 wildlife safety zones along New Mexico roads; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the departments be requested
21 to assess the possibility of establishing a citizen
22 road-monitoring program to help the departments collect data
23 in the future; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to
25 issue a proclamation declaring a wildlife safety awareness

1 day to promote reduced driving speeds for the safety of
2 drivers and wildlife; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
4 transmitted to the governor, the department of
5 transportation, the department of game and fish and the
6 New Mexico state police division of the department of public
7 safety. _____

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