

1 A MEMORIAL
2 CELEBRATING THE IMPORTANT AND LASTING LEGACY OF JOE CISNEROS.

3
4 WHEREAS, Joe Cisneros is a native of Questa and was
5 raised on a farm; and

6 WHEREAS, Joe has a deep understanding of and respect for
7 the land and water in northern New Mexico; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Cisneros' legacy of activism dates back to
9 the 1960s, when he alone protested the abuse of workers and
10 the environment near his native Questa by a large mining
11 corporation; and

12 WHEREAS, with little support from his fellow workers,
13 Joe stood up to the corporate leadership to address what he
14 considered unfair work policies and discrimination against
15 Hispanic workers; and

16 WHEREAS, after the mining corporation took action
17 against him, Joe Cisneros exposed certain unfair practices
18 that the corporation was using against employees, and soon
19 thereafter, Joe was fired by the corporation; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Cisneros continues his activism in the
21 community of Questa and has served on the Questa school
22 board; and

23 WHEREAS, Joe, never one to back down from a fight
24 against injustice, is known throughout his community as a
25 battler for people that may be unable to fight for

1 themselves; and

2 WHEREAS, Joe Cisneros is the inspiration for Joe
3 Mondragon, the protagonist in the book and movie "The Milagro
4 Beanfield War"; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Cisneros, and indeed, the character that he
6 inspired, stand tall in the face of powerful forces that
7 threaten to pollute the land and water that sustain a
8 community under the guise of economic development; and

9 WHEREAS, due in large part to Joe's efforts, in
10 September 2011, the mine near Questa was designated a
11 superfund cleanup site by the federal environmental
12 protection agency; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Cisneros will not be satisfied until the
14 cleanup work is done;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
16 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the important and lasting legacy of
17 Joe Cisneros be celebrated; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the governor, Joe Cisneros and the mayor of
20 Questa. _____

21
22
23
24
25