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HOUSE MEMORIAL 82

**51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013**

INTRODUCED BY

Miguel P. Garcia

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT NEW MEXICO'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION WORK TO  
CREATE A CONGRESSIONAL SUBCOMMITTEE CONCERNING SPANISH AND  
MEXICAN LAND GRANTS.

WHEREAS, New Mexico's land grants are intrinsically  
important to the history and culture of the state; and

WHEREAS, from the seventeenth to the mid-nineteenth  
centuries, the governments of Spain and Mexico made grants of  
land to individuals, groups and towns throughout the southwest  
to promote development in what were then frontier lands; and

WHEREAS, in 1848, at the conclusion of the Mexican-  
American war between Mexico and the United States, the Treaty  
of Peace, Friendship, Limits and Settlement, generally known as  
the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, was ratified; and

WHEREAS, under the terms of the Treaty of Guadalupe

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1 Hidalgo, California and what is now known as the American  
2 Southwest were ceded to the United States; and

3 WHEREAS, the ceded territories contained hundreds of the  
4 land grants given by the Spanish and Mexican governments; and

5 WHEREAS, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo guaranteed the  
6 property rights of the former Mexican citizens who now lived in  
7 the United States; and

8 WHEREAS, in the second half of the nineteenth century, the  
9 government of the United States enacted various pieces of  
10 legislation establishing processes to review property claims in  
11 the new territories; and

12 WHEREAS, the processes established differed from state to  
13 state and had a history of problematic surveys and outright  
14 corruption; and

15 WHEREAS, congress was remiss in fully securing land grant  
16 rights to Mexican citizens under the Treaty of Guadalupe  
17 Hidalgo; and

18 WHEREAS, there remain issues and controversies surrounding  
19 land grants in New Mexico, Texas, California and Colorado; and

20 WHEREAS, the United States general accounting office  
21 published two reports on the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and  
22 land grant claims in New Mexico, in September 2001 and in June  
23 2004; and

24 WHEREAS, among the options the general accounting office  
25 recommended congress to consider in the 2004 report was for

.192507.3

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1 congress to create a commission or other entity to evaluate and  
2 resolve remaining concerns about individual claims or categories  
3 of claims and to consider a process for returning land to land  
4 grant heirs or for compensating heirs for lost use of their  
5 lands;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
7 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state  
8 congressional delegation work to support the creation of a  
9 congressional subcommittee that concerns itself with Spanish  
10 and Mexican land grants; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
12 transmitted to the members of New Mexico's congressional  
13 delegation.