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SENATE MEMORIAL 35

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

INTRODUCED BY

Carlos R. Cisneros

A MEMORIAL

CELEBRATING THE IMPORTANT AND LASTING LEGACY OF JOE CISNEROS.

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, after the mining corporation took action against

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1 him, Joe Cisneros exposed certain unfair practices that the
2 corporation was using against employees, and soon thereafter,
3 Joe was fired by the corporation; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Cisneros continues his activism in the
5 community of Questa and has served on the Questa school board;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Joe, never one to back down from a fight against
8 injustice, is known throughout his community as a battler for
9 people that may be unable to fight for themselves; and

10 WHEREAS, Joe Cisneros is the inspiration for Joe
11 Mondragon, the protagonist in the book and movie "The Milagro
12 Beanfield War"; and

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

17 WHEREAS, due in large part to Joe's efforts, in September
18 2011, the mine near Questa was designated a superfund cleanup
19 site by the federal environmental protection agency; and

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

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

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

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1 transmitted to the governor, Joe Cisneros and the mayor of
2 Questa.

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