

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND MEMBERS OF
3 THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT LOCAL
4 EFFORTS TO DESIGNATE THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE REGION III
5 HEADQUARTERS BUILDING AS EITHER A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OR
6 NATIONAL MONUMENT.

7
8 WHEREAS, the national park service region III
9 headquarters building, more commonly known as the old Santa
10 Fe trail building, was constructed from 1937 through 1939
11 through the efforts of the civilian conservation corps and
12 the works progress administration, two federal government
13 organizations that offered meaningful employment and cultural
14 uplift to millions during the great depression; and

15 WHEREAS, New Mexico and its multicultural population
16 received a greater benefit from these programs than many
17 other states, including enhancing its ethnic diversity; and

18 WHEREAS, from 1939 to 1995, the building has served as
19 the region III headquarters for the national park service,
20 playing an important role in the development of the national
21 park system, which has been called "America's best idea"; and

22 WHEREAS, there are currently seventy national park
23 service employees who are quartered in the building; and

24 WHEREAS, the building is an outstanding example of
25 institutional adobe architecture, reflecting the natural

1 vernacular architecture of New Mexico and the southwest; and

2 WHEREAS, the exterior of the building has been preserved
3 by the national park service since 1939 and is virtually
4 unchanged since its original design and construction; and

5 WHEREAS, the interior of the building was designed to
6 reflect the same vernacular architecture and contains
7 furniture and artwork that are emblematic of New Mexico and
8 the southwest; and

9 WHEREAS, much of the furniture and artwork was produced
10 by artisans of the civilian conservation corps and the works
11 progress administration, and the national park service has
12 protected and preserved these artifacts as part of its
13 mission to preserve the building; and

14 WHEREAS, public activities in the building have been an
15 important part of Santa Fe's community life and development;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, the area around the building, commonly known as
18 museum hill, has evolved into a unique array of educational
19 institutions that are highly compatible with the public use
20 of the old Santa Fe trail building, presenting the potential
21 for mutually beneficial federal, state, local, tribal and
22 private-sector cooperation; and

23 WHEREAS, in recognition that the building is
24 historically significant to the entire nation, it was
25 designated as a national historic landmark in 1987 by the

1 United States secretary of the interior; and

2 WHEREAS, congress is now being asked to designate the
3 old Santa Fe trail building as a national historic site to
4 honor workers throughout the nation who lent their talents
5 and labor to the civilian conservation corps and the works
6 progress administration; and

7 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial if the story of that era
8 of the nation's history were documented and celebrated before
9 those who worked in the civilian conservation corps and the
10 works progress administration are all gone; and

11 WHEREAS, the building is a fitting site from which to
12 educate the nation about the deeds of these important workers
13 and to honor their memory;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
15 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the president of the United States
16 and members of the New Mexico congressional delegation be
17 requested to support local efforts to designate the old Santa
18 Fe trail building as a civilian conservation corps and works
19 progress administration national historic site; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, alternatively, the
21 president of the United States be urged to proclaim the old
22 Santa Fe trail building as the civilian conservation corps
23 and works progress administration national monument, honoring
24 all who participated in these government programs in the
25 building and the significant artifacts that the workers

1 helped to create; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that efforts to keep the current
3 seventy government employees headquartered in the old Santa
4 Fe trail building be supported; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
6 transmitted to the president of the United States, members of
7 the New Mexico congressional delegation and the director of
8 the national park service. _____

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