

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THAT THE INSIGHTS EL PASO SCIENCE CENTER, TOGETHER  
3 WITH EL CAMINO REAL DE TIERRA ADENTRO TRAIL ASSOCIATION, ALSO  
4 KNOWN AS "CARTA", CERTAIN STATE AGENCIES AND OTHER  
5 STAKEHOLDERS, WORK TOGETHER TO CONSIDER OPPORTUNITIES AND  
6 OPTIONS FOR A NEW MEXICO ENTITY TO ACQUIRE THE INSIGHTS EL  
7 PASO SCIENCE CENTER'S MOUNT CRISTO REY PROPERTY.

8  
9 WHEREAS, the land in and around Mount Cristo Rey in  
10 southern Dona Ana county is renowned for its ancient dinosaur  
11 footprints and paleontological resources; and

12 WHEREAS, in order to protect the natural and historical  
13 value of the Mount Cristo Rey site, two hundred acres of this  
14 property was donated to the Insights El Paso science center,  
15 a not-for-profit, hands-on science and technology center  
16 located in El Paso, Texas; and

17 WHEREAS, the vision of the Insights El Paso science  
18 center includes the establishment of a museum and  
19 amphitheater on the Mount Cristo Rey site for the permanent  
20 protection of the dinosaur trackways and geologic formations;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, other prominent features exist on or near the  
23 site, including El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro trail; the  
24 famous statue of Christ the king, which stands atop Mount  
25 Cristo Rey; and the convergence of eastbound, westbound and

1 northbound train service; and

2 WHEREAS, as many as thirty-five thousand pilgrims make  
3 the pilgrimage to ascend Mount Cristo Rey each year; and

4 WHEREAS, multiple groups of school children participate  
5 in field trips to the Insights El Paso science center's Mount  
6 Cristo Rey property to hunt for fossils and survey the  
7 dinosaur tracks; and

8 WHEREAS, the Insights El Paso science center has  
9 expressed a desire to transfer the Mount Cristo Rey property  
10 to a New Mexico partner that is committed to the site's  
11 preservation and appropriate development as a scientific  
12 educational site; and

13 WHEREAS, because of the proximity of the Mount Cristo  
14 Rey site to the southern boundary of the proposed Rio Grande  
15 trail, Insights El Paso science center has recommended its  
16 consideration as a southern terminus to the eventual Rio  
17 Grande trail;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
19 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it encourage  
20 the Insights El Paso science center to engage in discussions  
21 with El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro trail association, also  
22 known as "CARTA"; the state parks division of the energy,  
23 minerals and natural resources department; the New Mexico  
24 museum of natural history and science; the cultural affairs  
25 department; the Rio Grande trail commission; the Roman

1 Catholic diocese of Las Cruces; New Mexico state university;  
2 and other stakeholders to study the possibility of a New  
3 Mexico entity acquiring the property for the continued  
4 enjoyment and preservation of the site's natural and  
5 paleontological resources; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these discussions include a  
7 review of factors to assess the suitability of incorporating  
8 the Insights El Paso science center's Mount Cristo Rey  
9 property into the Rio Grande trail; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
11 transmitted to the executive director of the Insights El Paso  
12 science center; the director of the state parks division; the  
13 secretary of energy, minerals and natural resources; the  
14 director of the New Mexico museum of natural history and  
15 science; the secretary of cultural affairs; the chair of the  
16 Rio Grande trail commission; the bishop of the Roman Catholic  
17 diocese of Las Cruces; and the president of New Mexico state  
18 university.