

1 A MEMORIAL

2 PROMOTING THE CONTINUED USE OF PRESCRIBED FIRE IN A SAFE AND  
3 CONTROLLED MANNER TO ENHANCE NATURAL LANDSCAPES AND TO  
4 SUPPORT NEW MEXICO AGRICULTURE.

5  
6 WHEREAS, fire is an environmental driver and an  
7 essential component in most New Mexico ecosystems; and

8 WHEREAS, prescribed fire is the use of fire applied  
9 under specific conditions with appropriate planning; and

10 WHEREAS, prescribed fire allows the fire to be confined  
11 to a specific area to accomplish planned land management  
12 objectives; and

13 WHEREAS, ranchers must balance managing for forage,  
14 prescribed burning and mitigating wildfire; and

15 WHEREAS, fire is an important tool used by the state  
16 agriculture industry to clear fields, clean ditches and clear  
17 debris; and

18 WHEREAS, fire is a tool used by the state livestock  
19 industry to maintain open grasslands and improve forage  
20 quality; and

21 WHEREAS, cyclic burning in New Mexico forests and  
22 woodlands promotes forest health; and

23 WHEREAS, wildfires usually start during dry periods when  
24 excessive amounts of highly combustible materials have  
25 accumulated; and

1           WHEREAS, wildfires often occur under extreme weather and  
2 fuel conditions, making them difficult to control and  
3 possibly detrimental to the ecosystem, as well as damaging  
4 desirable plants and magnifying drought conditions; and

5           WHEREAS, prescribed fire can minimize the impacts and  
6 reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires; and

7           WHEREAS, prescribed fire both maintains and improves  
8 wildlife habitat and forage quality;

9           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
10 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the continued  
11 use of prescribed fire in a safe and controlled manner to  
12 enhance natural landscapes and to support New Mexico  
13 agriculture be promoted; and

14           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
15 transmitted to the secretary of environment, the director of  
16 the New Mexico department of agriculture and the chair of the  
17 New Mexico prescribed fire council.