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SENATE MEMORIAL 68

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016

INTRODUCED BY

Benny Shendo, Jr.

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING FEBRUARY 10, 2016 "NEW MEXICO RESTAURANT DAY" IN THE SENATE.

WHEREAS, New Mexico has a vibrant, world-class food and beverage scene; and

WHEREAS, whether diners are looking for a dining experience that is worthy of a James Beard award or for a dining experience at an authentic dive off the beaten path, New Mexico delivers; and

WHEREAS, restaurants are a driving economic force in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, according to statistics from the New Mexico restaurant association, restaurants accounted for eighty-seven thousand jobs in New Mexico and eleven percent of employment in the state; and

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1 WHEREAS, in 2014, there were three thousand three hundred
2 seventeen eating and drinking establishments in New Mexico; and

3 WHEREAS, in 2015, three billion three hundred million
4 dollars (\$3,300,000,000) was spent in New Mexico restaurants;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, restaurants in New Mexico are projected to employ
7 ninety-six thousand seven hundred people by 2025, which is an
8 eleven and one-tenths percent increase over 2015 figures; and

9 WHEREAS, half of all adult New Mexicans have worked in the
10 restaurant industry at some point during their lives, and one
11 out of three New Mexicans got their first job in a restaurant;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, restaurants employ more minority managers than
14 any other industry; and

15 WHEREAS, New Mexico restaurateurs are rightfully proud to
16 hold records for the world's largest flat enchilada and the
17 world's largest green chile cheeseburger; and

18 WHEREAS, New Mexico's restaurants showcase and feature
19 many New Mexican food and beverage products, from green chile
20 to pinon nuts to pecan beer and green chile vodka, allowing New
21 Mexico restaurants to introduce visitors to the pleasures of
22 New Mexico's unique offerings; and

23 WHEREAS, New Mexico's restaurants support many and various
24 student educational opportunities, from the high school
25 "ProStart" program to culinary training programs at community

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1 colleges to college-level culinary and management programs at
2 the state's universities; and

3 WHEREAS, the New Mexico restaurant association sponsored
4 the first-ever New Mexico house of representatives versus
5 senate chile cook-off during the 2015 legislative session; and

6 WHEREAS, each year, the New Mexico hospitality awards
7 celebrate the efforts of restaurateurs, chefs, managers and
8 employees who give back to their communities; and

9 WHEREAS, the question most often asked in New Mexico
10 restaurants, "Red or green?", is also the official state
11 question, and "Christmas" is served all year long;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
13 OF NEW MEXICO that February 10, 2016 be declared "New Mexico
14 Restaurant Day" in the senate; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
16 transmitted to the chief executive officer of the New Mexico
17 restaurant association.