

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THAT LOCAL 890 UNION HALL IN BAYARD, NEW MEXICO,
3 BE CONSIDERED FOR PLACEMENT ON THE STATE REGISTER OF CULTURAL
4 PROPERTIES.

5
6 WHEREAS, Local 890 union hall in Bayard, New Mexico, is
7 steeped in the history of Mexican American and other minority
8 groups' struggle and triumph over injustice and
9 discrimination and that group's pursuit of happiness as
10 guaranteed under the United States constitution; and

11 WHEREAS, Local 890 union hall is a memorial enshrining
12 the spirit of unity and brotherhood that was the impetus
13 behind that minority group's remarkable achievement and is a
14 reminder of unusual courage and fortitude, days of hardship
15 and despair and the fight for human dignity; and

16 WHEREAS, in October 1950, Local 890 went on strike at
17 the mine and mill owned by Empire Zinc company after the
18 company refused to negotiate and, in June 1951, obtained a
19 court order prohibiting union members from blocking the road
20 to the mine; and

21 WHEREAS, when the women of Ladies Auxiliary 290 took
22 over the picket line the following day, fifty-three of them
23 were arrested and jailed, along with their children, but the
24 picket line held. The arrests made national news and were
25 featured in newspapers such as the *New York Times*; and

1 WHEREAS, Local 890 union hall is where *Salt of the Earth*
2 was planned and executed. The film was about the Empire Zinc
3 company strike and addressed the subjects of the suppression
4 of and discrimination against workers and was one of the
5 first motion pictures to advance the feminist social and
6 political point of view; and

7 WHEREAS, *Salt of the Earth*, which was filmed in and
8 around Grant county, New Mexico, is the only motion picture
9 in American film history to be blacklisted; and

10 WHEREAS, the New Mexico historical society has
11 designated *Salt of the Earth* as a significant historical
12 event; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1992, the library of congress designated
14 *Salt of the Earth* as one of one hundred films for
15 preservation and posterity in the United States national film
16 registry for being "culturally, historically or aesthetically
17 significant"; and

18 WHEREAS, Local 890 union hall has been a place for the
19 community, where miners and their families could attend
20 lectures and movies and socialize at dances, bingo parties,
21 weddings and baptisms, in addition to being used for union
22 business; and

23 WHEREAS, Local 890 union hall has been designated as a
24 classic building by the society of architectural historians;
25 and

1 WHEREAS, Local 890 union hall should be recognized as a
2 historic landmark so that the struggle of the workers of
3 Local 890 and Ladies Auxiliary 290 against racism, sexism and
4 unjust working conditions will not be forgotten; and

5 WHEREAS, Local 890 union hall is a structure having
6 historic and cultural significance and is a valued and
7 important asset of New Mexico that is worthy of preservation;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
9 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the cultural
10 properties review committee consider placing Local 890 union
11 hall on the state register of cultural properties; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state historic
13 preservation officer assist the cultural properties review
14 committee in considering placing Local 890 union hall on the
15 state register of cultural properties; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the secretary of cultural affairs, the chair
18 of the cultural properties review committee and the state
19 historic preservation officer.

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