

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO DECLARE JUNE 4, 2017 "COSMIC
3 CAMPGROUND INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY SANCTUARY DAY".

4
5 WHEREAS, the cosmic campground was designated as the
6 first international dark sky sanctuary in the United States
7 by the international dark-sky association; and

8 WHEREAS, the cosmic campground international dark sky
9 sanctuary is a three-and-five-tenths-acre site in the Gila
10 national forest in Catron county in western New Mexico,
11 located between the Gila wilderness and the blue range
12 primitive area in Arizona, on land managed by the United
13 States forest service; and

14 WHEREAS, the international dark-sky association is a
15 United States-based nonprofit organization incorporated in
16 1988 by founders David Crawford, a professional astronomer,
17 and Tim Hunter, a physician and amateur astronomer; and

18 WHEREAS, the mission of the international dark-sky
19 association is to preserve and protect the night-time
20 environment and the United States' heritage of dark skies
21 through quality outdoor lighting; and

22 WHEREAS, the cosmic campground is situated in an
23 exceptionally dark part of the lower forty-eight United
24 States; and

25 WHEREAS, the cosmic campground has one of the darkest

1 natural night skies on earth, and the distant horizon offers
2 a three-hundred-sixty-degree unobstructed view of the night
3 sky, with the low hills surrounding the site helping to
4 obstruct unnatural light; and

5 WHEREAS, the nearest significant source of artificial
6 light to the cosmic campground international dark sky
7 sanctuary is more than forty miles away and across the border
8 of neighboring Arizona; and

9 WHEREAS, the cosmic campground is an island of
10 astronomical viewing surrounded by millions of people in
11 Phoenix, Albuquerque, Tucson, Las Cruces, El Paso and Santa
12 Fe; and

13 WHEREAS, the cosmic campground features a very basic
14 infrastructure to support campers, who can access a few
15 modern conveniences, such as wi-fi network connectivity by a
16 cell tower; and

17 WHEREAS, the cosmic campground international dark sky
18 sanctuary will provide a place to gaze in wonder at the vast
19 expanse of a natural night sky and offer visitors from around
20 the United States and the world an opportunity to enjoy one
21 of New Mexico's unmatched wild places;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
23 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be requested to declare
24 June 4, 2017 "Cosmic Campground International Dark Sky
25 Sanctuary Day" in New Mexico; and

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that congratulations and recognition be extended to the cosmic campground for its designation as the first international dark sky sanctuary in the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the governor, the United States forest service and the international dark-sky association.