

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING THE ROLE OF NEW MEXICANS IN PROTECTING AND
3 PRESERVING THE LAND, WATER AND WILDLIFE OF THE UNITED STATES
4 AND, IN PARTICULAR, NEW MEXICO, ENCOURAGING THE MEANINGFUL
5 ENGAGEMENT OF HISPANIC PEOPLE AND ALL NEW MEXICANS IN
6 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION EFFORTS AND
7 ENCOURAGING THE PARTICIPATION OF HISPANIC NEW MEXICANS IN
8 ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS THAT ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY IN THE
9 OUTDOORS AND BRING AWARENESS TO THE IMPORTANCE OF
10 CONSERVATION.

11
12 WHEREAS, Hispanic people have lived in New Mexico since
13 the sixteenth century; and

14 WHEREAS, Hispanic people remain the largest single
15 ethnic group in New Mexico; and

16 WHEREAS, since the sixteenth century, Hispanic people
17 have demonstrated a love for and engagement with New Mexico's
18 natural environment, protecting its farmlands, natural
19 expanses and urban areas from fire, flood and depletion while
20 conserving its precious water resources; and

21 WHEREAS, despite their numbers and longstanding roles as
22 stewards of New Mexico's land, Hispanic people are
23 underrepresented among the institutions and entities that
24 manage New Mexico's public lands; and

25 WHEREAS, Hispanic people deserve a much greater role in

1 the decision-making process relating to public lands; and

2 WHEREAS, Hispanic conservation initiatives break down
3 barriers, improve access to public lands and encourage
4 outreach to, and new opportunities for, the Hispanic
5 community to enjoy public lands; and

6 WHEREAS, increased access to outdoor recreational
7 opportunities for Hispanic families and youth fosters an
8 appreciation of the outdoors, as well as a commitment within
9 the Hispanic community to conservation; and

10 WHEREAS, access to green spaces promotes healthy and
11 active lifestyles, which in turn helps to address numerous
12 health disparities that disproportionately affect the
13 Hispanic community, including conditions such as diabetes,
14 obesity and cardiovascular disease; and

15 WHEREAS, the participation of and exposure of Hispanic
16 people in conservation efforts can encourage an interest and
17 involvement among Hispanic people in careers in conservation;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, each person should have the opportunity to
20 discover his or her history, culture and heritage by
21 exploring and experiencing New Mexico's public lands; and

22 WHEREAS, the people of New Mexico, including people of
23 all backgrounds, must ensure that New Mexico's public lands
24 and natural environment are protected and equally accessible
25 for future generations of all backgrounds; and

1 WHEREAS, as the largest ethnic group in New Mexico,
2 Hispanic people will have a significant role in the future
3 success and preservation of New Mexico's public lands,
4 especially as the Hispanic population continues to grow;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
6 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the role of
7 Hispanic people in protecting and preserving the land, water
8 and wildlife of the United States and, in particular, New
9 Mexico, be recognized; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the inclusion and meaningful
11 engagement of Hispanic people and all New Mexicans in
12 environmental protection and conservation efforts be
13 encouraged; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hispanic New Mexicans be
15 encouraged to participate in activities and programs that
16 engage the community in the outdoors and bring awareness to
17 the importance of conservation; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the governor, the commissioner of public lands,
20 the secretary of environment, the secretary of energy,
21 minerals and natural resources, the secretary of public
22 education and the secretary of cultural affairs. _____

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