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HOUSE MEMORIAL 10

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE NEW MEXICO BIKEPACKING NETWORK IN THE PROMOTION OF NEW MEXICO OUTDOOR RECREATION.

WHEREAS, bikepacking is a combination of cycling and camping; and

WHEREAS, bikepacking touring is generally done off-road on ultralight bicycles with bags that mount directly to the bicycle, and riders cover significant distances when bikepacking; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico bikepacking network was created by a grassroots coalition of cyclists from southern and northern New Mexico, and its development and promotion is not funded or guided by special interests but by the residents who enjoy and use New Mexico's public lands; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the New Mexico bikepacking network

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1 is to link northern New Mexico border towns to the southern
2 border of the United States by utilizing routes that are
3 currently being traveled, and that extend the length of New
4 Mexico; and

5 WHEREAS, several New Mexico bikepacking loops already
6 exist: the monumental loop in southern New Mexico, the New
7 Mexico off-road runner parallel to the Rio Grande, the Chama
8 charmer, the Valles Caldera super volcano explorer and a night
9 on the Caja del Rio; and

10 WHEREAS, the New Mexico bikepacking network endeavors to
11 connect diverse and majestic New Mexican landmarks, whether
12 they are natural or cultural landscapes, including four
13 national forests, one national wildlife refuge, two national
14 monuments and countless points of interest and historical
15 landmarks; and

16 WHEREAS, the proposed network would contain almost one
17 thousand four hundred fifty miles of New Mexico roads and
18 trails that would allow access to all of New Mexico's natural
19 landscapes; and

20 WHEREAS, the proposed route of the New Mexico bikepacking
21 network would travel through multiple government jurisdictions,
22 many local communities and approximately seventeen counties;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced to create a state
25 office of outdoor recreation; and

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1 WHEREAS, the proposed New Mexico backpacking network would
2 be a premier attraction of an office of outdoor recreation,
3 which seeks to further bolster an economic sector that already
4 generates nine billion nine hundred million dollars
5 (\$9,900,000,000) in annual consumer spending and an estimated
6 ninety-nine thousand jobs, according to the outdoor industry
7 association; and

8 WHEREAS, the New Mexico bikepacking network would provide
9 excellent potential for diverse economic development to
10 communities and small business along its route; and

11 WHEREAS, the New Mexico bikepacking network also proposes
12 to be an incubator for programs aimed at providing access and
13 experiences to promote a genuine connection to public lands;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, cyclists, campers, hikers, equestrians and other
16 users would also benefit from a statewide network of trails
17 that can be enjoyed free from fossil fuels and that connects
18 one community to the next; and

19 WHEREAS, the New Mexico bikepacking network aims to
20 promote conservation and bring awareness to the preservation of
21 New Mexico's history and culture; and

22 WHEREAS, the New Mexico bikepacking network plans to
23 promote and celebrate all of New Mexico's cultural treasures,
24 industries that serve the state and every community that is
25 represented within New Mexico's boundaries; and

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