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SENATE MEMORIAL 21

**55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022**

INTRODUCED BY

Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING HISPANICS ENJOYING CAMPING, HUNTING, AND THE  
OUTDOORS AND SUPPORTING A NEW MEXICO PUBLIC LANDS CONSERVATION  
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL TO HELP ELEVATE THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF  
HISPANIC CULTURE, TRADITIONS AND PERSPECTIVES IN STRENGTHENING  
THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CONSERVATION OF PUBLIC LANDS AND WATERS  
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

WHEREAS, New Mexico is rooted in a rich and multicultural  
history, with forty-seven percent of the population having  
Hispanic ancestry; and

WHEREAS, Hispanics have a strong connection to the  
nation's diverse landscapes and practice centuries-old  
traditions, such as fishing, hunting, farming, ranching and  
wood, plant and piñon nut gathering, that require the  
protection of public lands and waters; and

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1           WHEREAS, the Hispano customs of caring for and cultivating  
2 the land responsibly and governing water for communities  
3 through acequias are foundational to New Mexican heritage; and

4           WHEREAS, many New Mexico watersheds provide critical water  
5 resources to communities, including municipal, domestic and  
6 agricultural users, and provide clean water to numerous ancient  
7 and agriculturally and culturally significant acequia systems;  
8 and

9           WHEREAS, querencia, or love for the land, is a deeply held  
10 value that connects southwestern Hispanics to a past, present  
11 and future sense of belonging and purpose, is a principle that  
12 prioritizes conservation for future generations and is a pillar  
13 of what the group Hispanics enjoying camping, hunting, and the  
14 outdoors, more commonly known as HECHO, is founded on; and

15           WHEREAS, HECHO was established in the southwest and was  
16 founded to empower Hispanic leaders to engage their communities  
17 in the conservation of public lands; and

18           WHEREAS, HECHO provides a platform for Hispanic voices to  
19 be heard with respect to the protection of public lands,  
20 healthy watersheds, clean air and robust wildlife habitats; and

21           WHEREAS, HECHO, in working toward building a robust public  
22 lands conservation leadership council in New Mexico, encourages  
23 everyone to join and support this effort and HECHO's mission;  
24 and

25           WHEREAS, there is a need for effective policies that

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1 safeguard public lands for all; and

2 WHEREAS, Hispanos endeavor to continue to enjoy, and  
3 practice and pass down, cultural traditions that depend on  
4 public lands; and

5 WHEREAS, Hispanic leaders endeavor to be widely recognized  
6 for contributions to public land conservation;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
8 OF NEW MEXICO that the importance of public participation of  
9 all New Mexicans, including Hispanic New Mexicans, in decisions  
10 and processes concerning public lands and waters be affirmed by  
11 the legislature; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature express  
13 support for HECHO in the creation of a public lands  
14 conservation council of Hispanic leaders to build capacity and  
15 create a formalized network of Hispanic public lands leaders to  
16 increase participation and representation of Hispanics in such  
17 matters; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature recognize the  
19 important role that HECHO fills in ensuring that Hispanic  
20 Americans and Hispano cultural and traditional uses of the land  
21 are included in decisions about public lands and waters; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature recognize  
23 HECHO as a group that connects and unites Hispanic leaders to  
24 engage their communities in the conservation of public lands  
25 and waters and fosters strong, culturally rich communities

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1 connected to nature and each other; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
3 transmitted to the governor, members of the New Mexico  
4 congressional delegation, the commissioner of public lands, the  
5 New Mexico state director of the federal bureau of land  
6 management, the director of the intermountain regional office  
7 of the United States national park service, the director of the  
8 department of game and fish, the southwest regional director of  
9 the United States fish and wildlife service and the regional  
10 forester of the southwestern regional office of the United  
11 States forest service.