1	HOUSE MEMORIAL 62
2	57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025
3	INTRODUCED BY
4	Anita Gonzales
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10	A MEMORIAL
11	RECOGNIZING THE IMPACT OF THE HERMIT'S PEAK/CALF CANYON FIRE ON
12	THE RESIDENTS AND COMMUNITIES OF NORTHEASTERN NEW MEXICO.
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14	WHEREAS, on April 6, 2022, the United States forest
15	service lost control of a prescribed burn due to windy
16	conditions, resulting in the Hermit's Peak fire; and
17	WHEREAS, on April 9, 2022, an improperly extinguished pile
18	burn that the United States forest service had lit in January
19	rekindled, resulting in the Calf Canyon fire; and
20	WHEREAS, on April 22, 2022, the Hermit's Peak fire and the
21	Calf Canyon fire merged; and
22	WHEREAS, the merged Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon fire grew to
23	become the most destructive fire in New Mexico history,
24	surpassing the 2012 Whitewater-Baldy complex fire; and
25	WHEREAS, the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon fire burned three
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hundred forty-one thousand four hundred seventy-one acres; and WHEREAS, April 6, 2025 will mark three years since the start of the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon fire; and

WHEREAS, as of April 6, 2025, the federal emergency management agency will still be working to compensate losses across northeastern New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, as of January 2025, the federal emergency management agency had only paid out approximately one billion eight hundred million dollars (\$1,800,000,000) in claims of the five billion four hundred fifty million dollars (\$5,450,000,000) allocated for claims by the United States government; and

WHEREAS, many claimants from the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon fire burn scar, including many who have suffered the total losses of homes, ranches or businesses, are still waiting for compensation; and

WHEREAS, many residents and communities within the burn scar are dealing with subsequent and unprecedented cascading effects, including severe flooding, emotional trauma and loss of employment; and

WHEREAS, many local groups and individuals have dedicated efforts to supporting the recovery of the region, including Janna Lopez of neighbors helping neighbors fire relief and Yolanda Cruz, who administers the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon fire recovery page on facebook; and

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<u>underscored material = new</u> [bracketed material] = delete WHEREAS, the residents and communities of northeastern New Mexico continue to struggle with the losses of their homes, ranches, businesses, forests and recreation areas as well as displacement, emotional trauma and the loss of cultural identity and traditions; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico congressional delegation, including Representative Teresa Leger Fernandez, Senator Martin Heinrich and Senator Ben Ray Lujan, have addressed the federal emergency management agency with constituents' concerns;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon fire be recognized as the most destructive fire in New Mexico history; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon fire claimants are entitled to full compensation from the federal government for the claimants' losses and require resources and legislation to address cascading effects and prevent disastrous fires in the future; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the governor, the New Mexico congressional delegation and the director of the federal emergency management agency's Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon fire claims office.

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