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HOUSE MEMORIAL 62

**57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

INTRODUCED BY

Anita Gonzales

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE IMPACT OF THE HERMIT'S PEAK/CALF CANYON FIRE ON  
THE RESIDENTS AND COMMUNITIES OF NORTHEASTERN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2022, the United States forest  
service lost control of a prescribed burn due to windy  
conditions, resulting in the Hermit's Peak fire; and

WHEREAS, on April 9, 2022, an improperly extinguished pile  
burn that the United States forest service had lit in January  
rekindled, resulting in the Calf Canyon fire; and

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2022, the Hermit's Peak fire and the  
Calf Canyon fire merged; and

WHEREAS, the merged Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon fire grew to  
become the most destructive fire in New Mexico history,  
surpassing the 2012 Whitewater-Baldy complex fire; and

WHEREAS, the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon fire burned three

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1 hundred forty-one thousand four hundred seventy-one acres; and

2 WHEREAS, April 6, 2025 will mark three years since the  
3 start of the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon fire; and

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

7 WHEREAS, as of January 2025, the federal emergency  
8 management agency had only paid out approximately one billion  
9 eight hundred million dollars (\$1,800,000,000) in claims of the  
10 five billion four hundred fifty million dollars  
11 (\$5,450,000,000) allocated for claims by the United States  
12 government; and

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

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

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

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