

A MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO MAINTAIN THE
DISTINCTIVE HISTORICAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS
OF THE PEOPLE AND LAND OF NORTHERN NEW MEXICO BY DESIGNATING
IT AS A NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.**

**WHEREAS, north central New Mexico is blessed with a
cultural and historical mosaic that begins with America's
earliest inhabitants, many of whom still live on their
ancestral lands, to Spanish settlement in 1598; and**

**WHEREAS, throughout its centuries, the contributions of
Mexican, French, German and Irish immigrants have given north
central New Mexico its vitality and uniqueness; and**

**WHEREAS, it is the celebration of cultures, languages,
folk arts, customs and architecture that makes north central
New Mexico worthy of preservation; and**

**WHEREAS, pueblo and early Spanish communities have
provided through their families, acequias, plantings,
harvests, language, folklore and cultural celebrations a
distinct definition to this wondrous milieu; and**

**WHEREAS, members of the broader community residing in
Rio Arriba, Santa Fe and Taos counties have made valuable
artistic, literary and commercial contributions; and**

**WHEREAS, our total "ambiente", encompassing the Rio
Grande, Sangre de Cristo mountains, forests, arroyos, parks,**

pueblos, capillas, museums, monuments, crystalline skies and sacred sanctuaries, has been celebrated for its unmatched beauty; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico was honored by the United States postal service with a postage stamp depicting the Espanola mission convento in celebration of four hundred years of Ibero-Hispanic contributions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the United States congress be requested to make every possible effort to maintain and preserve the distinctive historical, social and cultural characteristics of the people and land of north central New Mexico by designating it as a national heritage area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to members of the New Mexico congressional delegation.