

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE STATE RECORDS CENTER TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO
3 DOCUMENT CHIMAYO CHILE'S CULTURAL, TRADITIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL
4 CONNECTION TO PRESENT WAYS OF LIVING IN CHIMAYO AND THE
5 SURROUNDING NORTHERN NEW MEXICO COMMUNITY; REQUESTING THE NEW
6 MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CONDUCT A SEED, SOIL AND
7 INDUSTRY STUDY OF CHIMAYO CHILE AND WORK WITH THE LOCAL
8 COMMUNITY IN PLANNING CHIMAYO CHILE'S LONG-TERM CULTURAL
9 ASSET PRESERVATION AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT; RECOGNIZING
10 CHIMAYO CHILE AS A LIVING HEIRLOOM OF NORTHERN NEW MEXICO
11 HISPANIC CULTURAL, FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL TRADITIONS.

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13 WHEREAS, it is the desire of the New Mexico legislature
14 that Chimayo chile as a New Mexico Hispanic cultural asset be
15 preserved as a living tradition; and

16 WHEREAS, to preserve the traditional and cultural value
17 of chile as a symbol of a way of life and a living cultural
18 asset of the great state of New Mexico, it is imperative that
19 a written document be compiled, that historic records be
20 maintained and that the story be made accessible to the
21 citizens of New Mexico; and

22 WHEREAS, it is right and proper for all people to know
23 and understand the unique history of chile, the role it has
24 played and the legendary status it has achieved in the
25 formation of the state's food traditions; and

1 WHEREAS, Chimayo chile followed a cultural, industrial,
2 agricultural and political pathway from 1598 to 1821, when
3 the Spanish flag flew over New Mexico; and

4 WHEREAS, between 1821 and 1846, when the Mexican flag
5 flew over New Mexico, Chimayo chile acquired a legendary
6 status on established trade routes due to its particular
7 taste; and

8 WHEREAS, Chimayo chile is still grown in the northern
9 New Mexico mountain valley that the early Spaniards called La
10 Canada and that is now known as Chimayo; and

11 WHEREAS, for the first two hundred fifty years of
12 northern New Mexico Hispanic history, Chimayo proudly
13 maintained its food traditions, customs and culture, adapting
14 and integrating chile traditions with native counterparts as
15 an act of thanksgiving and faith; and

16 WHEREAS, in 1846, New Mexico became a territory of the
17 United States, achieving statehood in 1912; and

18 WHEREAS, four hundred three years later, Chimayo chile
19 still enjoys the legendary status begun by the industrious
20 growers who developed the first chile trade routes to the
21 north; and

22 WHEREAS, Chimayo growers continue to proudly herald and
23 celebrate the state's living food traditions, customs,
24 culture and faith; and

25 WHEREAS, the Hispanic children of New Mexico should

1 understand that their roots are in the proud status of
2 Chimayo chile and the land where it grows; and

3 WHEREAS, Chimayo chile has achieved legendary status as
4 a food heirloom in oral history; and

5 WHEREAS, that status as an oral heirloom enables ongoing
6 cultivators of Chimayo chile to take pride in the
7 four-hundred-year development of their living food traditions
8 along with the economic well-being it affords them; and

9 WHEREAS, New Mexico's Hispanic history and food
10 traditions are unique among all the states in the union; and

11 WHEREAS, it is important to keep Chimayo's agricultural
12 and cultural asset alive and well preserved through organized
13 study and practicums;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
15 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Chimayo chile be recognized as a
16 living heirloom of northern New Mexico Hispanic cultural,
17 food and agricultural traditions that is worthy of
18 preservation; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state records center be
20 requested to conduct a study to document Chimayo chile's
21 cultural, traditional and industrial connection to present
22 ways of living in Chimayo and the surrounding northern New
23 Mexico community, and that a written report on the history of
24 Chimayo chile be provided to the governor and the legislature
25 by December 31, 2005; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico department of
2 agriculture be requested to conduct a seed, soil and industry
3 study of Chimayo chile; to work with the local community in
4 planning Chimayo chile's long-term cultural asset
5 preservation and industrial development; and to provide a
6 written report of its recommendations for preserving
7 Chimayo's chile seeds, soil composition, land, growers and
8 industrial development to the governor and legislature by
9 December 31, 2005; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the New Mexico department of agriculture and
12 the state records center. _____

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