

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 63

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

Debbie A. Rodella

A JOINT MEMORIAL

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

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

WHEREAS, to preserve the traditional and cultural value of

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1 chile as a symbol of a way of life and a living cultural asset  
2 of the great state of New Mexico, it is imperative that a  
3 written document be compiled, that historic records be  
4 maintained and that the story be made accessible to the  
5 citizens of New Mexico; and

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

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

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

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

19 WHEREAS, for the first two hundred fifty years of northern  
20 New Mexico Hispanic history, Chimayo proudly maintained its  
21 food traditions, customs and culture, adapting and integrating  
22 chile traditions with native counterparts as an act of  
23 thanksgiving and faith; and

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

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1           WHEREAS, four hundred three years later, Chimayo chile  
2 still enjoys the legendary status begun by the industrious  
3 growers who developed the first chile trade routes to the  
4 north; and

5           WHEREAS, Chimayo growers continue to proudly herald and  
6 celebrate the state's living food traditions, customs, culture  
7 and faith; and

8           WHEREAS, the Hispanic children of New Mexico should  
9 understand that their roots are in the proud status of Chimayo  
10 chile and the land where it grows; and

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

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

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

19           WHEREAS, it is important to keep Chimayo's agricultural  
20 and cultural asset alive and well preserved through organized  
21 study and practicums;

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

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state records center be  
2 requested to conduct a study to document Chimayo chile's  
3 cultural, traditional and industrial connection to present ways  
4 of living in Chimayo and the surrounding northern New Mexico  
5 community, and that a written report on the history of Chimayo  
6 chile be provided to the governor and the legislature by  
7 December 31, 2005; and

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

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
17 transmitted to the New Mexico department of agriculture and the  
18 state records center.