

1 A MEMORIAL

2 ENCOURAGING NATIVE AMERICAN NATIONS, TRIBES AND PUEBLOS IN
3 NEW MEXICO TO LOOK AT NEW ALTERNATIVES FOR THEIR MANAGEMENT
4 OF WILD HORSE HERDS AND TO DEVELOP WILD HORSE TOURISM
5 PROGRAMS.

6
7 WHEREAS, it has been shown by mitochondrial
8 deoxyribonucleic acid testing that the modern horse is the
9 same horse that evolved in North America along with its flora
10 and fauna and is the same horse that left North America for
11 ten thousand to thirteen thousand years and returned with the
12 Spanish conquistadores; and

13 WHEREAS, some Native Americans consider the horse a
14 living historic monument under the New Mexico Cultural
15 Properties Act, which established the central principles of
16 preservation in New Mexico: "that the historical and
17 cultural heritage of the state is one of the state's most
18 valued and important assets [and] that the public has an
19 interest in the preservation of all antiquities, historic and
20 prehistoric ruins, sites, structures [and] objects of
21 historical significance"; and

22 WHEREAS, the horse has been an integral part of Native
23 American culture in New Mexico since the 1500s, used for
24 logging, harvesting, hunting, recreation, transportation,
25 packing, companionship, inspiration, traditional ceremonies

1 and defense; and

2 WHEREAS, wild horses serve a major and important role in
3 the ecosystem that is New Mexico by increasing the dispersal
4 of seeds as the horses graze and by blazing trails and
5 breaking ice in deep winter, both of which help more
6 vulnerable wildlife species survive, and by serving as food
7 for predators and scavengers; and

8 WHEREAS, some Native American tribes are
9 wild-horse-friendly and use tribal adoptions as a method of
10 controlling herd size; and

11 WHEREAS, it is also possible to control wild horse herd
12 size by injections of porcine zona pellucida vaccine, a
13 nontoxic immunocontraception that costs less than thirty-five
14 dollars (\$35.00) per mare and is administered by the United
15 States humane society; and

16 WHEREAS, porcine zona pellucida is cheap and effective,
17 can be administered remotely, is not harmful to humans or
18 animals and can be reversed if need be; and

19 WHEREAS, Native American nations, tribes and pueblos in
20 New Mexico are working to improve and diversify their
21 economies; and

22 WHEREAS, although tourism is the second-largest industry
23 in the state, wild horse herds are not advertised as tourist
24 attractions; and

25 WHEREAS, many tourists, particularly foreign tourists,

1 come to New Mexico to experience the old west, which is, in
2 great part, the story of the horse; and

3 WHEREAS, the wild horse is part of New Mexico's
4 enchantment and essence and is an integral part of the Native
5 American, Hispanic, ranching and farming cultures; and

6 WHEREAS, the rural areas of the state, in particular,
7 are missing an opportunity to draw tourists from all over the
8 world who are intrigued by the history, culture and art of
9 the American southwest; and

10 WHEREAS, it is possible to advertise wild horse tourism
11 as consisting of small family-owned and -run businesses that
12 accept tourists by appointment only;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
14 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the Native American nations, tribes
15 and pueblos of New Mexico be encouraged to manage their herds
16 at genetically viable levels and to use birth control instead
17 of auction sales to limit herd size; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when overpopulation does
19 exist, the Native American nations, tribes and pueblos of New
20 Mexico be encouraged to move excess animals to other wild
21 horse preserves, preferably in New Mexico, or place them with
22 private or state wild horse preserves; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Native American nations,
24 tribes and pueblos of New Mexico be encouraged to develop
25 wild horse tourism in New Mexico and to protect and preserve

1 wild horses in New Mexico; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
3 transmitted to each Native American nation, tribe and pueblo
4 in New Mexico.

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