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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

Steve Komadi na

A JOINT MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO LOOK AT IMPROVING
MANAGEMENT OF WILD HORSE HERDS AND REQUESTING THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP TOURISM PROGRAMS AT NATIONAL WILD HORSE
TERRITORIES AND OTHER WILD HORSE RANGES.**

**WHEREAS, New Mexico started out with twelve national wild
horse territories but now has only three territories; and**

**WHEREAS, the wild horse population of New Mexico on
federal lands in 1973 was over six thousand, but currently the
total wild horse population of New Mexico on federal lands is
under four hundred and is targeted at two hundred eighteen;
and**

**WHEREAS, wild horses of Spanish colonial descent are part
of New Mexico's living heritage and history, but they are
endangered and may become extinct in New Mexico; and**

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1 WHEREAS, there are increased efforts in the state to
2 ensure the preservation of the descendants of those horses who
3 came to the new world with the conquistadores, one means being
4 DNA testing of wild horses and removing Spanish-line horses to
5 separate preserves; and

6 WHEREAS, like the buffalo, wild horses are emblematic of
7 the old west, and it is the image of wild horses running free
8 across the plains of the west that lives in the hearts and
9 minds of Americans; and

10 WHEREAS, it was with this idea in mind that the United
11 States congress recognized that these living symbols of the
12 historic pioneer spirit of the west were fast disappearing
13 from the American scene and passed the Wild Free-Roaming
14 Horses and Burros Act of 1971 to protect wild horses; and

15 WHEREAS, the wild horse is part of New Mexico's
16 enchantment and essence and an integral part of the Indian,
17 Hispanic, ranching and farming cultures; and

18 WHEREAS, although tourism is the second-largest industry
19 in the state, the national wild horse territories in New
20 Mexico are not advertised by either the federal or state
21 government; and

22 WHEREAS, the state, in particular, is missing an
23 opportunity to draw thousands of tourists from all over the
24 world who are intrigued by the history, culture and art of the
25 American west;

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1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
2 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the federal government be requested
3 to develop the three existing wild horse territories in New
4 Mexico and to open other national wild horse territories in
5 New Mexico where herds currently exist; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government
7 endeavor to maintain a minimum herd size of two hundred in
8 each national wild horse territory for genetic viability and
9 for tourism; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government
11 control wild horse populations by the use of contraception
12 rather than sale of excess animals; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when overpopulation does
14 exist, the federal government move the excess animals to other
15 wild horse territories, preferably in New Mexico, or place
16 them with private or state wild horse preserves after DNA
17 testing to determine if the horses are Spanish-line
18 descendants; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that helicopters not be used in
20 the state's rugged terrain to round up wild horses, especially
21 during foaling season; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government honor
23 the cultural heritage and history of New Mexico by maintaining
24 Spanish-line and other wild horse populations for the
25 enjoyment and education of New Mexico residents and other

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1 visitors to the state; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
3 transmitted to the heads of the bureau of land management of
4 the United States department of the interior and the forest
5 service of the United States department of agriculture; the
6 secretaries of the interior and agriculture; and the New
7 Mexico congressional delegation.

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