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HOUSE MEMORIAL 64

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011

INTRODUCED BY

James Roger Madalena

A MEMORIAL

ENCOURAGING COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION ON A STATEWIDE
PLANNING SUMMIT FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.

WHEREAS, Native Americans have been living in the region
of New Mexico for over twenty thousand years; and

WHEREAS, over twenty-five thousand ancient Indian
settlements have been found in the state of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, twenty-three Indian reservations are located
within New Mexico's borders and constitute approximately ten
percent of the land base; and

WHEREAS, communities such as the Pueblos of Taos and Acoma
are among the oldest continually occupied communities in the
nation; and

WHEREAS, the Apache, Navajo and pueblo communities
maintain their unique cultures and traditions to the benefit

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1 and promotion of New Mexico tourism, arts and crafts and
2 general scientific knowledge; and

3 WHEREAS, there were over two hundred thousand Native
4 Americans in New Mexico in 2010, constituting over ten percent
5 of the population of the state; and

6 WHEREAS, in 2009, New Mexico ranked first of all states in
7 terms of the percentage of Native American populations; and

8 WHEREAS, McKinley county ranks third nationwide in terms
9 of its Native American population, with fifty-eight thousand
10 Native Americans constituting seventy-eight percent of its
11 population; and San Juan county ranks seventh, with forty-six
12 thousand Native Americans constituting eighty-eight percent of
13 its population; and

14 WHEREAS, in cities with a population of more than one
15 hundred thousand, Albuquerque ranks fourth in terms of its
16 Native American population, with twenty-two thousand forty-
17 seven Native Americans, constituting nearly five percent of its
18 population; and

19 WHEREAS, Native Americans have the highest percentage,
20 nearly twenty-nine percent, of people who have no health
21 insurance; and

22 WHEREAS, only fourteen percent of Native Americans over
23 the age of twenty-five hold bachelors' degrees; and

24 WHEREAS, the tribal nations of New Mexico have sovereign
25 jurisdiction within their reservations and have become

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1 increasingly self-determining in the administration and
2 management of their people and natural resources; and

3 WHEREAS, the mining of coal, oil and gas on Native
4 American lands in New Mexico contributes substantially to New
5 Mexico's economy; and

6 WHEREAS, the oldest and most senior water rights are held
7 by Native American tribes in New Mexico; and

8 WHEREAS, the department of housing and urban development,
9 the Indian health service in the department of health and human
10 services and the bureau of Indian affairs in the department of
11 the interior contribute substantial resources to housing,
12 roads, community infrastructure and schools for Native
13 Americans in New Mexico; and

14 WHEREAS, Indian casinos employ thousands of people in New
15 Mexico and contribute tens of millions of dollars to the
16 revenues of the state; and

17 WHEREAS, Indian tribes are among the largest single
18 employers in Bernalillo, Cibola, McKinley, Otero, Sandoval and
19 San Juan counties; and

20 WHEREAS, the American planning association created an
21 indigenous planning division, whose mission is to foster an
22 interdisciplinary approach to planning that upholds Native
23 American land tenure, values and cultural world views in
24 community development;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF

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1 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that all federal,
2 state, local and tribal planning agencies be encouraged to
3 cooperate and support the initiatives of the American planning
4 association's indigenous planning division; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the higher education
6 department, all New Mexico post-secondary institutions and the
7 Indian affairs department support and promote careers and
8 training in planning for the benefit of tribal communities; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all planners who work for or
10 with tribal communities be encouraged to convene a statewide
11 summit on indigenous planning; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 distributed to all Native American tribes in New Mexico, the
14 Indian affairs department, the public education department and
15 the higher education department.