

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT A  
3 PROPERTY STATUS, PROGRAM AND USE AUDIT OF THE LOS LUCEROS  
4 PROPERTY IN RIO ARRIBA COUNTY.

5  
6 WHEREAS, Los Luceros is a one-hundred-thirty-acre  
7 property of great historic and natural value, located in the  
8 Espanola Valley near Alcalde, which was purchased by the  
9 state to enable greater access to the property by the public;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, the state gained ownership of Los Luceros in  
12 2008 with the aim of providing public access to the historic  
13 property, developing a retreat center for workshops,  
14 conducting seminars connected to New Mexico's film industry  
15 and providing a site for crop testing and environmental  
16 studies programming; and

17 WHEREAS, the estate was first owned by Luis Maria Ortiz,  
18 a seventh-generation descendant of colonists who arrived with  
19 Don Diego de Vargas, for whom the main house, or casa grande,  
20 was constructed; and

21 WHEREAS, Mary Cabot Wheelwright, the founder of the  
22 museum that now bears her name, purchased the property in  
23 1923 and lived there until her death in 1958; and

24 WHEREAS, Mary Wheelwright's heirs invested in a major  
25 renovation of the property, which was completed in 2001; and

1           WHEREAS, the structures on the grounds include the casa  
2 grande, which at one time acted as the county seat; an old  
3 jail; the Capilla de la Sagrada Familia chapel; a new  
4 visitors center and other facilities with historic  
5 significance; and

6           WHEREAS, the grounds also include orchards, a bosque and  
7 irrigated pastures, all of which provide habitat for at least  
8 one hundred sixty-two species of birds, both migratory and  
9 permanent residents, as well as many species of mammals and  
10 reptiles; and

11           WHEREAS, Los Luceros has been listed on the national  
12 register of historic places since 1983; and

13           WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2010, money was appropriated to  
14 the cultural affairs department by the legislature to  
15 complete a master plan for the use of Los Luceros; and

16           WHEREAS, the property is currently closed and  
17 unattended, possibly putting in jeopardy the condition of the  
18 structures and plantings on the property, as well as its  
19 listing on the national register of historic places; and

20           WHEREAS, with the property closed, public access to the  
21 property is not possible;

22           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
23 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the cultural affairs department be  
24 requested to conduct a property status, program and use audit  
25 of the Los Luceros estate to determine if the property is

1 being maintained and used so as to maximize the property's  
2 value to the state; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of cultural  
4 affairs be requested to review the master plan for Los  
5 Luceros and take any steps necessary to implement the plan or  
6 develop a new plan for the occupation and use of Los Luceros  
7 and include that in her report to the appropriate interim  
8 legislative committees; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the cultural affairs  
10 department be requested to report to the interim revenue  
11 stabilization and tax policy committee and to the legislative  
12 finance committee on its audit findings no later than  
13 November 1, 2012; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
15 transmitted to the secretary of cultural affairs. \_\_\_\_\_

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