

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING THE HISTORY AND HERITAGE OF LAS VEGAS,
3 CELEBRATING ITS INSTITUTIONS AND REQUESTING THE LEGISLATURE'S
4 SUPPORT FOR LAS VEGAS'S EFFORTS TO COMBAT ITS WATER CRISIS.
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6 WHEREAS, Las Vegas was founded in 1835 as a Spanish land
7 grant called Nuestra Senora de los Dolores de Las Vegas
8 Grandes; and

9 WHEREAS, the Spanish settlers who founded the community
10 had roots going back to the seventeenth century; and

11 WHEREAS, the Acequia Madre in Las Vegas stands as a
12 testament to one hundred fifty years of resourcefulness and
13 ingenuity; and

14 WHEREAS, Las Vegas was a key rest stop, resupply point
15 and protector of the Santa Fe trail, serving as a lifeline
16 between the growing West and the eastern parts of the
17 United States; and

18 WHEREAS, in one of the more riotous and colorful periods
19 of its history, Las Vegas saw the likes of Vicente Silva and
20 Las Gorras Blancas, Doc Holliday, Billy the Kid, Wyatt Earp
21 and Jesse James mingling with its inhabitants and enjoying
22 its entertainments; and

23 WHEREAS, Las Vegas provided some of Teddy Roosevelt's
24 "Rough Riders", and the city hosted the first "Rough Riders"
25 reunion, which was attended by Roosevelt shortly before he

1 became president; and

2 WHEREAS, Las Vegas has over nine hundred buildings on
3 the national register of historic places; and

4 WHEREAS, Las Vegas is a signature place of charm and
5 wonder in the "Land of Enchantment", a spectacular tourist
6 destination, with fine historic hotels, authentic New Mexico
7 character and easy access to other local historic sites and
8 outdoor recreation; and

9 WHEREAS, aside from its historic and tourist
10 attractions, Las Vegas is home to many critical state
11 institutions; and

12 WHEREAS, one of these is the New Mexico behavioral
13 health institute, the only state-owned and state-operated
14 psychiatric hospital, which provides critical medical
15 services to the state, including long-term nursing care for
16 the elderly and disabled; and

17 WHEREAS, Las Vegas is also home to five major
18 educational institutions, New Mexico highlands university,
19 Luna community college, United world college, Las Vegas city
20 schools and west Las Vegas school district; and

21 WHEREAS, these educational institutions are gems of the
22 city and crucibles of learning, teaching and discovery, not
23 just for northern New Mexico, but for the entire state and
24 the globe; and

25 WHEREAS, in recent years, there has been a burgeoning

1 water crisis affecting Las Vegas, exacerbated by the state's
2 years of drought, the limited surface area of the watershed
3 surrounding the city and the age and conditions of the area's
4 dams; and

5 WHEREAS, increasing water storage is Las Vegas's top
6 priority for the city to alleviate its critical water supply
7 situation; and

8 WHEREAS, Las Vegas has indicated that an expansion of
9 the Bradner reservoir, involving both an increase in size of
10 the Bradner dam and addressing safety issues connected with
11 the dam, is key to alleviating Las Vegas's water crisis; and

12 WHEREAS, the enlargement of the Bradner dam has been
13 endorsed by the San Miguel county economic development
14 leadership collaborative; and

15 WHEREAS, the water crisis affecting Las Vegas will
16 undermine the remarkable opportunities for tourism in and
17 around Las Vegas, the city's economic development and the
18 potential of the behavioral health institute and the city's
19 five educational institutions;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
21 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the distinguished history and
22 heritage of Las Vegas be recognized; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the contributions of the
24 behavioral health institute, New Mexico highlands university,
25 Luna community college, United world college, Las Vegas city

1 schools and west Las Vegas school district be celebrated; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that support be expressed for Las
3 Vegas in its efforts to resolve its water crisis by expanding
4 the Bradner reservoir and dam; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
6 transmitted to the mayor of Las Vegas and to the city council
7 of Las Vegas. _____

SM 71
Page 4

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