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SENATE MEMORIAL 71

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE HISTORY AND HERITAGE OF LAS VEGAS, CELEBRATING ITS INSTITUTIONS AND REQUESTING THE LEGISLATURE'S SUPPORT FOR LAS VEGAS'S EFFORTS TO COMBAT ITS WATER CRISIS.

WHEREAS, Las Vegas was founded in 1835 as a Spanish land grant called Nuestra Senora de los Dolores de Las Vegas Grandes; and

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

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

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

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1 and

2 WHEREAS, in one of the more riotous and colorful periods
3 of its history, Las Vegas saw the likes of Vicente Silva and
4 Las Gorras Blancas, Doc Holliday, Billy the Kid, Wyatt Earp and
5 Jesse James mingling with its inhabitants and enjoying its
6 entertainments; and

7 WHEREAS, Las Vegas provided some of Teddy Roosevelt's
8 "Rough Riders", and the city hosted the first "Rough Riders"
9 reunion, which was attended by Roosevelt shortly before he
10 became president; and

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

13 WHEREAS, Las Vegas is a signature place of charm and
14 wonder in the "Land of Enchantment", a spectacular tourist
15 destination, with fine historic hotels, authentic New Mexico
16 character and easy access to other local historic sites and
17 outdoor recreation; and

18 WHEREAS, aside from its historic and tourist attractions,
19 Las Vegas is home to many critical state institutions; and

20 WHEREAS, one of these is the New Mexico behavioral health
21 institute, the only state-owned and state-operated psychiatric
22 hospital, which provides critical medical services to the
23 state, including long-term nursing care for the elderly and
24 disabled; and

25 WHEREAS, Las Vegas is also home to five major educational

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1 institutions, New Mexico highlands university, Luna community
2 college, United world college, Las Vegas city schools and west
3 Las Vegas school district; and

4 WHEREAS, these educational institutions are gems of the
5 city and crucibles of learning, teaching and discovery, not
6 just for northern New Mexico, but for the entire state and the
7 globe; and

8 WHEREAS, in recent years, there has been a burgeoning
9 water crisis affecting Las Vegas, exacerbated by the state's
10 years of drought, the limited surface area of the watershed
11 surrounding the city and the age and conditions of the area's
12 dams; and

13 WHEREAS, increasing water storage is Las Vegas's top
14 priority for the city to alleviate its critical water supply
15 situation; and

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

20 WHEREAS, the enlargement of the Bradner dam has been
21 endorsed by the San Miguel county economic development
22 leadership collaborative; and

23 WHEREAS, the water crisis affecting Las Vegas will
24 undermine the remarkable opportunities for tourism in and
25 around Las Vegas, the city's economic development and the

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1 potential of the behavioral health institute and the city's
2 five educational institutions;

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

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the contributions of the
7 behavioral health institute, New Mexico highlands university,
8 Luna community college, United world college, Las Vegas city
9 schools and west Las Vegas school district be celebrated; and

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

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
14 transmitted to the mayor of Las Vegas and to the city council
15 of Las Vegas.