

1 A MEMORIAL

2 URGING AWARENESS BY CERTAIN STATE AGENCIES OF CHANGING
3 TECHNOLOGIES, INCLUDING DRONES, THAT MAY AFFECT WILDLIFE AND
4 REQUESTING A STUDY TO RECOMMEND METHODS FOR THE PROTECTION OF
5 WILDLIFE FROM DRONES.

6
7 WHEREAS, a drone is an unmanned device used or designed
8 for navigation or flight that is guided remotely or by an
9 onboard computer or control system; and

10 WHEREAS, while there are many positive uses for drones,
11 such as scientific monitoring and research, search and rescue
12 and forest fire detections, drones have been shown to be
13 harmful to wildlife populations; and

14 WHEREAS, drones can change the natural behavior of
15 wildlife by separating mothers from their young, disrupting
16 animals while they are trying to eat or sleep, disturbing
17 nests and causing stampedes and other behaviors; and

18 WHEREAS, wildlife can be injured when attempting to
19 escape or avoid drone activity; and

20 WHEREAS, Alaska, Colorado and Montana have banned the
21 use of drones for hunting and fishing; and

22 WHEREAS, many national parks, including Carlsbad
23 caverns, Yosemite, Olympic, Grand Canyon, Arches, Zion and
24 Canyonlands national parks, have banned drones completely; and

25 WHEREAS, hunting and fishing activities bring more than

1 six hundred thirteen million dollars (\$613,000,000) annually
2 to New Mexico; and

3 WHEREAS, prohibiting the use of drones for hunting and
4 fishing protects the "fair chase" principle of hunting and
5 helps keep alive the tradition of ethical hunting in
6 New Mexico; and

7 WHEREAS, the state game commission recently passed a
8 rule protecting game mammals, game birds, game fish,
9 fur-bearing animals and endangered species from drones used
10 for hunting, fishing and other activities; and

11 WHEREAS, protecting wildlife from drones helps keep
12 New Mexico's wildlife populations safe, stable and healthy;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, other state agencies with wildlife
15 responsibilities include the state parks division of the
16 energy, minerals and natural resources department and the
17 state land office;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that all state entities with wildlife
20 responsibilities be encouraged to stay aware of changing
21 technologies, including drones, that may affect wildlife; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state parks division of
23 the energy, minerals and natural resources department be
24 requested to recommend methods for the protection of wildlife
25 from drones; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
2 transmitted to the director of the department of game and
3 fish, the chair of the state game commission, the director of
4 the state parks division of the energy, minerals and natural
5 resources department and the commissioner of public lands.=====

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