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SENATE MEMORIAL 40

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

Phil A. Griego

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS REFRAIN FROM
DESIGNATING ADDITIONAL WILDERNESS OR SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS
ADJOINING THE EXISTING PECOS WILDERNESS.

WHEREAS, there is a movement that would designate
additional acreage as wilderness and special management areas
adjoining the existing Pecos wilderness in northern New Mexico;
and

WHEREAS, the federal Wilderness Act of 1964 prohibits the
use of "motor vehicles", "motorized equipment" and any "other
form of mechanical transport" as well as prohibiting any
"structure or installation within any such area"; and

WHEREAS, such prohibitions, limitations and restrictions
prevent watershed restoration, flood control, acequia and
watershed management for food production and municipal use; and

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1 WHEREAS, such prohibitions, limitations and restrictions
2 prevent proper forest management by precluding timber sales,
3 forest thinning and active fire suppression; and

4 WHEREAS, such prohibitions, limitations and restrictions
5 prevent proper livestock management by severely limiting the
6 methods available to ranchers for maintaining fencing and water
7 infrastructure; and

8 WHEREAS, such prohibitions, limitations and restrictions
9 prevent any nearby mining and other extractive industries
10 important to the state; and

11 WHEREAS, such prohibitions, limitations and restrictions
12 limit access by law enforcement and search and rescue personnel
13 because access is allowed only on foot or horseback; and

14 WHEREAS, such prohibitions, limitations and restrictions
15 discriminate against the aged and physically handicapped by
16 making access to wilderness-designated lands inaccessible; and

17 WHEREAS, such designations can diminish the fundamental
18 economic opportunities of rural communities, including property
19 values; and

20 WHEREAS, recent wilderness designations in New Mexico have
21 been devoid of a public process to engage those who may be
22 negatively impacted by such a designation;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
24 OF NEW MEXICO that New Mexico oppose the designation of any
25 expanded wilderness or special management areas adjoining the

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1 existing Pecos wilderness; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
3 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation, the
4 majority leader of the United States senate, the speaker of the
5 United States house of representatives and the president of the
6 United States.

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