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SENATE MEMORIAL 11

**52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016**

INTRODUCED BY

William P. Soules

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE PUBLIC LANDS LEGACY IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, approximately twenty-six million acres of land in New Mexico are owned by the people of the United States and managed for the benefit of all citizens by federal public land management agencies; and

WHEREAS, New Mexicans have the good fortune to live near these federal public lands and to benefit from them economically; and

WHEREAS, at least sixty-five percent of New Mexicans participate in some form of outdoor recreation every year; and

WHEREAS, the outdoor recreation economy in New Mexico generates four hundred fifty-eight million dollars (\$458,000,000) in tax revenue and six billion one hundred million dollars (\$6,100,000,000) in consumer spending each

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1 year, while employing more than sixty-eight thousand people;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, healthy public lands with quality fishing,  
4 hiking, cross-country skiing, camping and other recreational  
5 resources are major factors in attracting new businesses and  
6 jobs to New Mexico that might otherwise locate elsewhere; and

7 WHEREAS, preserving access to outdoor recreation on public  
8 lands protects the economy, businesses, communities and people  
9 of New Mexico; and

10 WHEREAS, access to and use of large tracts of healthy,  
11 viable, contiguous public lands are essential to the  
12 perpetuation of traditional New Mexico land uses such as  
13 hunting, fishing, grazing, firewood gathering and pinon nut and  
14 herb gathering; and

15 WHEREAS, all of these activities have long been a part of  
16 the traditional New Mexico lifestyle; and

17 WHEREAS, eighty-nine percent of New Mexico sportsmen and  
18 sportswomen use public lands to hunt and fish; and

19 WHEREAS, hunters and anglers spend more than six hundred  
20 thirteen million dollars (\$613,000,000) annually on  
21 recreational activities in New Mexico, contributing more than  
22 two hundred sixty-seven million dollars (\$267,000,000) in  
23 salaries and wages and fifty-one million four hundred thousand  
24 dollars (\$51,400,000) in state and local taxes while supporting  
25 nearly eight thousand jobs; and

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