

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING THE BISON FOR ITS HISTORICAL, CULTURAL AND
3 SPIRITUAL VALUE AND FOR ITS VIABILITY AS A SUSTAINABLE FOOD
4 SOURCE.

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6 WHEREAS, for three decades, the department of game and
7 fish managed a herd of bison at the Fort Wingate army depot;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, to prevent a scheduled sport hunt of
10 Fort Wingate's bison herd, and in response to protests of the
11 hunt, the herd was auctioned off and relocated to the
12 Pueblo of Picuris; and

13 WHEREAS, the Pueblo of Picuris was once one of the
14 largest pueblos in northern New Mexico; and

15 WHEREAS, within its exterior boundaries, the
16 Pueblo of Picuris is composed of approximately twenty-three
17 thousand acres of land; and

18 WHEREAS, the Pueblo of Picuris has had an established
19 bison herd since 1978; and

20 WHEREAS, the Pueblo of Picuris was a founding member of
21 the intertribal buffalo council, whose mission statement is,
22 "Restoring buffalo to the Indian country, to preserve our
23 historical, cultural, traditional and spiritual relationship
24 for future generations"; and

25 WHEREAS, fifty-eight tribes in nineteen states now have

1 established bison herds that collectively number more than
2 fifteen thousand animals; and

3 WHEREAS, for its part, the bison herd at the
4 Pueblo of Picuris currently numbers about seventy; and

5 WHEREAS, the United States congress recently passed the
6 National Bison Legacy Act, which adopts the bison as the
7 national mammal of the United States; and

8 WHEREAS, the relocation of the Fort Wingate bison to
9 tribal lands helps to restore bison as both a sustainable
10 food source and as a traditional spiritual enhancement for
11 the people of the pueblo;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
13 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it recognize the bison for its
14 historical, cultural and spiritual value and for its
15 viability as a sustainable food source; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the secretary of Indian affairs, the governor
18 of the Pueblo of Picuris and the governor of New Mexico. _____

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