

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 107

2 **53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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9  
10 A MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO DECLARE JUNE 4, 2017 "COSMIC  
12 CAMPGROUND DAY".

13  
14 WHEREAS, the cosmic campground was designated as the first  
15 international dark sky sanctuary in the United States by the  
16 international dark-sky association; and

17 WHEREAS, the cosmic campground international dark sky  
18 sanctuary is a three-and-five-tenths-acre site in the Gila  
19 national forest in Catron county in western New Mexico, located  
20 between the Gila wilderness and the blue range primitive area  
21 in Arizona, on land managed by the United States forest  
22 service; and

23 WHEREAS, the international dark-sky association is a  
24 United States-based nonprofit organization incorporated in 1988  
25 by founders David Crawford, a professional astronomer, and Tim

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1 Hunter, a physician and amateur astronomer; and

2 WHEREAS, the mission of the international dark-sky  
3 association is to preserve and protect the night-time  
4 environment and the United States' heritage of dark skies  
5 through quality outdoor lighting; and

6 WHEREAS, the cosmic campground is situated in an  
7 exceptionally dark part of the lower forty-eight United States;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, the cosmic campground has one of the darkest  
10 natural night skies on earth, and the distant horizon offers a  
11 three-hundred-sixty-degree unobstructed view of the night sky,  
12 with the low hills surrounding the site helping to obstruct  
13 unnatural light; and

14 WHEREAS, the nearest significant source of artificial  
15 light to the cosmic campground international dark sky sanctuary  
16 is more than forty miles away and across the border of  
17 neighboring Arizona; and

18 WHEREAS, the cosmic campground is an island of  
19 astronomical viewing surrounded by millions of people in  
20 Phoenix, Albuquerque, Tucson, Las Cruces, El Paso and Santa Fe;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, the cosmic campground features a very basic  
23 infrastructure to support campers, who can access a few modern  
24 conveniences, such as wi-fi network connectivity by a cell  
25 tower; and

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1           WHEREAS, the cosmic campground international dark sky  
2 sanctuary will provide a place to gaze in wonder at the vast  
3 expanse of a natural night sky and offer visitors from around  
4 the United States and the world an opportunity to enjoy one of  
5 New Mexico's unmatched wild places;

6           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
7 OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be requested to declare June 4,  
8 2017 "Cosmic Campground Day" in New Mexico; and

9           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that congratulations and  
10 recognition be extended to the cosmic campground for its  
11 designation as the first international dark sky sanctuary in  
12 the United States; and

13           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
14 transmitted to the governor, the United States forest service  
15 and the international dark-sky association.