

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 140

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

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 John Pinto

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10 A MEMORIAL

11 RECOGNIZING THE BISON FOR ITS HISTORICAL, CULTURAL AND
12 SPIRITUAL VALUE AND FOR ITS VIABILITY AS A SUSTAINABLE FOOD
13 SOURCE.

14
15 WHEREAS, for three decades, the department of game and
16 fish managed a herd of bison at the Fort Wingate army depot;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, to prevent a scheduled sport hunt of Fort
19 Wingate's bison herd, and in response to protests of the hunt,
20 the herd was auctioned off and relocated to the Pueblo of
21 Picuris; and

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

24 WHEREAS, within its exterior boundaries, the Pueblo of
25 Picuris is composed of approximately twenty-three thousand

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1 acres of land; and

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

4 WHEREAS, the Pueblo of Picuris was a founding member of
5 the intertribal buffalo council, whose mission statement is,
6 "Restoring buffalo to the Indian country, to preserve our
7 historical, cultural, traditional and spiritual relationship
8 for future generations"; and

9 WHEREAS, fifty-eight tribes in nineteen states now have
10 established bison herds that collectively number more than
11 fifteen thousand animals; and

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

14 WHEREAS, the United States congress recently passed the
15 National Bison Legacy Act, which adopts the bison as the
16 national mammal of the United States; and

17 WHEREAS, the relocation of the Fort Wingate bison to
18 tribal lands helps to restore bison as both a sustainable food
19 source and as a traditional spiritual enhancement for the
20 people of the pueblo;

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

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

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1 transmitted to the secretary of Indian affairs, the governor of
2 the Pueblo of Picuris and the governor of New Mexico.

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