

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 5

2 **53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Pat Woods

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR TO
12 FOLLOW THE FEDERAL WILD FREE-ROAMING HORSES AND BURROS ACT TO
13 ACHIEVE APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT LEVELS OF WILD HORSES AND
14 BURROS.

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16 WHEREAS, pursuant to the federal Wild Free-Roaming Horses
17 and Burros Act, the United States secretary of the interior is
18 tasked with managing wild free-roaming horses and burros on
19 public lands in a manner that is designed to achieve and
20 maintain a thriving, natural ecological balance; and

21 WHEREAS, to achieve appropriate management levels,
22 congress authorized the removal of excess animals from the
23 range through adoption, humane euthanasia and sale; and

24 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the United States department
25 of the interior through the bureau of land management to not

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1 euthanize wild horses or burros or to sell the animals without
2 restrictions; and

3 WHEREAS, for many years, congress has prevented
4 appropriated funds to be used to facilitate the unrestricted
5 sale or humane euthanasia of wild horses and burros; and

6 WHEREAS, today, there are nearly fifty thousand more
7 horses on the range than the land is able to support, in
8 addition to twelve thousand to fifteen thousand foals, with an
9 expectation of many more foals in the spring; and

10 WHEREAS, horses tend to double their populations every
11 four to five years; and

12 WHEREAS, excessive numbers of horses and burros on the
13 range threaten the health of native plants, wildlife and other
14 public land resources and uses, and ecosystems are being
15 degraded in many areas; and

16 WHEREAS, due to the excessive populations, horses are
17 starving and dying of thirst and disease; and

18 WHEREAS, adoption and fertility control have proven
19 insufficient at managing wild horse and burro populations; and

20 WHEREAS, despite the expenditure of approximately seven
21 million dollars (\$7,000,000) a year to promote adoptions of
22 excess horses, demand does not meet supply for adoption to be a
23 sufficient management tool; and

24 WHEREAS, an effective, easily delivered and affordable
25 fertility-control method is not currently available to manage

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1 wild horse and burro population growth; and

2 WHEREAS, it costs taxpayers nearly fifty million dollars
3 (\$50,000,000) each year for the bureau of land management to
4 feed and care for more than forty-five thousand wild horses and
5 burros that have been removed from the range; and

6 WHEREAS, to restore the population of wild free-roaming
7 horses to an appropriate level, the national wild horse and
8 burro advisory board recommends allowing the unrestricted sale
9 and humane euthanasia of excess animals as authorized in the
10 federal Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
12 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the United States department of the
13 interior be requested to follow the federal Wild Free-Roaming
14 Horses and Burros Act and utilize all of the management tools
15 provided in that act to achieve ecologically sustainable wild
16 horse and burro populations; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that congress be encouraged to
18 restore funding to the United States department of the interior
19 to facilitate the unrestricted sale and euthanasia of excess
20 horses and burros; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the United States secretary of the interior, New
23 Mexico's congressional delegation and the president of the
24 United States.