

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

SENATE MEMORIAL 34

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023

INTRODUCED BY

Crystal R. Diamond

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING FEBRUARY 15, 2023 "CHILE DAY" IN THE SENATE.

WHEREAS, for hundreds of years, New Mexicans have perfected the art of growing delicious chiles from New Mexico's rocky, rugged soil; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico chile has an unparalleled, world-famous flavor that cannot be found anywhere else; and

WHEREAS, Hatch is considered the chile capital of the world, and the largest chile processor is located in Deming; and

WHEREAS, the chile pepper institute at New Mexico state university is the only international organization dedicated to the education, research and archiving of information related to chile; and

WHEREAS, horticulturist Dr. Fabian Garcia developed "New
.224672.1

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 Mexico 9", the first New Mexico variety chile; and

2 WHEREAS, New Mexico state university has developed
3 numerous chile varieties, including Sandia, New Mexico 6-4,
4 NuMex big Jim, NuMex Joe E. Parker and NuMex odyssey; and

5 WHEREAS, New Mexico leads the nation in chile production,
6 with fifty-one thousand tons of chile produced in 2021, of
7 which forty-six thousand five hundred tons were green chile and
8 four thousand five hundred tons were red chile; and

9 WHEREAS, ninety-one percent of chile grown in New Mexico
10 goes to processors for value-added products such as powders,
11 salsas and sauces, with nine percent sold on the fresh market;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, the importance that the chile industry has on New
14 Mexico's economy is significant, providing more than five
15 thousand jobs and contributing more than four hundred fifty
16 million dollars (\$450,000,000) to the state's economy,
17 according to the New Mexico chile association; and

18 WHEREAS, New Mexicans immortalize chile at every
19 opportunity; and

20 WHEREAS, the legislature adopted chile and pinto beans
21 both as New Mexico's state vegetables, the argument being that
22 the two vegetables were inseparable when served; and

23 WHEREAS, the legislature also passed a house joint
24 memorial declaring "Red or green?" as the official state
25 question, referring to the question of whether a person prefers

.224672.1

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 red or green chile when ordering New Mexican cuisine; and

2 WHEREAS, making such a difficult choice has many people
3 ordering "Christmas", both red and green chile, the best of
4 both worlds; and

5 WHEREAS, during this legislative session, lawmakers are
6 even considering Senate Bill 188, the adoption of "the aroma of
7 green chile roasting in the fall" as "the official aroma of New
8 Mexico"; and

9 WHEREAS, adding to chile's allure, New Mexico state
10 university developed NuMex "Española improved", which was grown
11 on the space station and is the longest space plant experiment
12 in history; and

13 WHEREAS, New Mexicans and connoisseurs around the world
14 know: chile is not just food, it is tradition;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
16 OF NEW MEXICO that February 15, 2023 be declared "Chile Day" in
17 the senate; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chile industry be
19 recognized for the industry's contributions to New Mexico's
20 economy and taste buds; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the executive director of the New Mexico chile
23 association and the secretary of tourism.