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**HOUSE MEMORIAL 29**

**43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 1998**

**INTRODUCED BY**

**JIMMIE GARNENEZ SR.**

**A MEMORIAL**

**REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR TO  
INVESTIGATE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT CONFISCATION OF CATTLE  
FROM THE RANCHO LARGO GRAZING ALLOTMENT IN SAN JUAN, RIO  
ARRIBA AND SANDOVAL COUNTIES.**

**WHEREAS, the Rancho Largo grazing allotment number 05119  
was leased to the Crow Mesa and Largo Ranches cattle  
operations; and**

**WHEREAS, the Rancho Largo grazing allotment was located  
in San Juan, Rio Arriba and Sandoval counties and consisted of  
land leased from the bureau of land management of the United  
States department of the interior, the state of New Mexico and  
the Navajo Nation; and**

**WHEREAS, the Rancho Largo grazing allotment consists of  
seventy-three thousand seven hundred eighty-eight acres,**

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1 sixty-one thousand two hundred twenty-four of which were  
2 leased from the bureau of land management; and

3 WHEREAS, there are several owners of the Rancho Largo  
4 grazing allotment, all of whom are Navajo; and

5 WHEREAS, in 1996, disputes among the owners of Rancho  
6 Largo caused the lease of the two hundred fifty-eight and  
7 twenty-one hundredths acres of Navajo Nation fee land to come  
8 into question; and

9 WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation lease was temporarily  
10 discontinued and then reinstated in April 1996; and

11 WHEREAS, in late May 1996, the bureau of land management  
12 terminated its lease to the Rancho Largo grazing allotment,  
13 claiming that the Navajo Nation lease had been withdrawn and  
14 failing to acknowledge that the Navajo Nation lease had been  
15 reinstated; and

16 WHEREAS, in August 1996, one hundred ninety-eight head of  
17 cattle were confiscated by the bureau of land management at  
18 gunpoint, according to the Rancho Largo grazing allotment  
19 owners; and

20 WHEREAS, the bureau of land management lease was  
21 terminated in error and the confiscation of the cattle was a  
22 serious mistake; and

23 WHEREAS, no payment has been received by the Rancho Largo  
24 principals for the cattle that were confiscated; and

25 WHEREAS, all efforts by the Rancho Largo grazing

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1 allotment owners to enter into negotiations with the bureau of  
2 land management were ignored or rebuffed, according to the  
3 Rancho Largo grazing allotment owners;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it request the  
6 United States department of the interior to investigate the  
7 handling of the Rancho Largo grazing allotment by the bureau  
8 of land management and determine if appropriate procedure was  
9 followed, if the grazing lease was properly terminated, if it  
10 was necessary to use armed force to remove the cattle from the  
11 allotment, if compensation is due the cattle owners and if  
12 fees charged the allotment holders for the cattle confiscation  
13 were appropriate; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
15 distributed to the secretary of the interior and the members  
16 of the New Mexico congressional delegation and the president  
17 of the Navajo Nation.

1 FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

2 SECOND SESSION, 1998

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5  
6 February 17, 1998

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8 Mr. Speaker:

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10 Your AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE,  
11 to whom has been referred

12  
13 HOUSE MEMORIAL 29

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15 has had it under consideration and reports same with  
16 recommendation that it DO PASS.

17 Respectfully submitted,

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22 G. X. McSherry, Chairman  
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1 FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE  
2 SECOND SESSION, 1998

3 HAGC\HM 29

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4 Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ Not Adopted \_\_\_\_\_

5  
6 (Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

7  
8 Date \_\_\_\_\_

9  
10 The roll call vote was 9 For 0 Against

11 Yes: 9

12 Excused: 0

13 Absent: None

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