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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 30

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999

INTRODUCED BY

Miguel P. Garcia

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING CONTINUED RECOGNITION BY THE INTERNATIONAL
ASTRONOMICAL UNION OF PLUTO'S STATUS AS A MAJOR PLANET.

WHEREAS, the planet Pluto was discovered by Clyde Tombaugh in 1930; and

WHEREAS, since the 1950s, astronomer Clyde Tombaugh made major contributions
to the field of astronomy in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the planet Pluto was the last planet to be discovered in our solar system
and is the only planet not yet visited by an Earth spacecraft; and

WHEREAS, although Pluto is somewhat like a comet in that it periodically warms and
loses its atmosphere to space, it is far too large to be a comet; and

WHEREAS, Pluto is more like most planets than most asteroids in that it has an
atmosphere and is orbited by its own moon, Charon; and

WHEREAS, the definition of planet is unclear and encompasses a continuum of objects
that possess an enormous range in size relative to each other that orbit the sun or other stars;
and

WHEREAS, two groups within the International Astronomical Union are suggesting

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1 changing Pluto's stature as a major planet to that of an asteroid or trans-neptunian object; and

2 WHEREAS, the American Astronomical Society's Division of Planetary Science has
3 released a statement opposing Pluto's reclassification, noting that there is little scientific or
4 historical justification for such an action; and

5 WHEREAS, New Mexicans have a special attachment to Pluto through their respect
6 for astronomer Clyde Tombaugh;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
8 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislature strongly support Clyde Tombaugh's discovery
9 and characterization of Pluto as a major planet and urge the International Astronomical Union
10 to resist the temptation to recategorize the planet Pluto as something other than one of the nine
11 major planets of our solar system.

1 FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
2 FIRST SESSION, 1999
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6 February 27, 1999
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9 Mr. Speaker:

10 Your **GOVERNMENT AND URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**, to
11 whom has been referred
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13 **HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 30**
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15 has had it under consideration and reports same with recommendation that it **DO PASS**.
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17 Respectfully submitted,
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22 **James G. Taylor, Chairman**
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1 FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
2 FIRST SESSION, 1999

3 HJ030/HJM 30

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5 Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____

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(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

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Date _____

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10 The roll call vote was 6 For 0 Against

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Yes: 6

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Excused: None

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Absent: Mallory

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FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1999

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**FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1999**

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March 4, 1999

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Mr. President:

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Your **CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**, to whom has been referred

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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 30

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

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Respectfully submitted,

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Fernando R. Macias, Chairman

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Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____

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FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1999

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(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 6 For 0 Against

Yes: 6

No: 0

Excused: Eisenstadt, Sanchez, Vernon, Rodarte

Absent: None

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