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SENATE MEMORIAL 17

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

Steve Komadina

A MEMORIAL

ENCOURAGING NATIVE AMERICAN NATIONS, TRIBES AND PUEBLOS IN NEW MEXICO TO LOOK AT NEW ALTERNATIVES FOR THEIR MANAGEMENT OF WILD HORSE HERDS AND TO DEVELOP WILD HORSE TOURISM PROGRAMS.

WHEREAS, it has been shown by mitochondrial deoxyribonucleic acid testing that the modern horse is the same horse that evolved in North America along with its flora and fauna and is the same horse that left North America for ten thousand to thirteen thousand years and returned with the Spanish conquistadores; and

WHEREAS, some Native Americans consider the horse a living historic monument under the New Mexico Cultural Properties Act, which established the central principles of preservation in New Mexico: "that the historical and cultural heritage of the state is one of the state's most valued and important assets

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1 [and] that the public has an interest in the preservation of
2 all antiquities, historic and prehistoric ruins, sites,
3 structures [and] objects of historical significance"; and

4 WHEREAS, the horse has been an integral part of Native
5 American culture in New Mexico since the 1500s, used for
6 logging, harvesting, hunting, recreation, transportation,
7 packing, companionship, inspiration and defense; and

8 WHEREAS, wild horses serve a major and important role in
9 the ecosystem that is New Mexico by increasing the dispersal of
10 seeds as the horses graze and by blazing trails and breaking
11 ice in deep winter, both of which help more vulnerable wildlife
12 species survive, and by serving as food for predators and
13 scavengers; and

14 WHEREAS, some Native American tribes are wild-horse-
15 friendly and use tribal adoptions as a method of controlling
16 herd size; and

17 WHEREAS, it is also possible to control wild horse herd
18 size by injections of porcine zona pellucida vaccine, a
19 nontoxic immunocontraception that costs less than thirty-five
20 dollars (\$35.00) per mare and is administered by the United
21 States humane society; and

22 WHEREAS, porcine zona pellucida is cheap and effective,
23 can be administered remotely, is not harmful to humans or
24 animals and can be reversed if need be; and

25 WHEREAS, Native American nations, tribes and pueblos in

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1 New Mexico are working to improve and diversify their
2 economies; and

3 WHEREAS, although tourism is the second-largest industry
4 in the state, wild horse herds are not advertised as tourist
5 attractions; and

6 WHEREAS, many tourists, particularly foreign tourists,
7 come to New Mexico to experience the old west, which is, in
8 great part, the story of the horse; and

9 WHEREAS, the wild horse is part of New Mexico's
10 enchantment and essence and is an integral part of the Native
11 American, Hispanic, ranching and farming cultures; and

12 WHEREAS, the rural areas of the state, in particular, are
13 missing an opportunity to draw tourists from all over the world
14 who are intrigued by the history, culture and art of the
15 American southwest; and

16 WHEREAS, it is possible to advertise wild horse tourism as
17 consisting of small family-owned and -run businesses that
18 accept tourists by appointment only;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the Native American nations, tribes
21 and pueblos of New Mexico be encouraged to manage their herds
22 at genetically viable levels and to use birth control instead
23 of slaughter or auction sales to limit herd size; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when overpopulation does
25 exist, the Native American nations, tribes and pueblos of New

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1 Mexico be encouraged to move excess animals to other wild horse
2 preserves, preferably in New Mexico, or place them with private
3 or state wild horse preserves; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Native American nations,
5 tribes and pueblos of New Mexico be encouraged to develop wild
6 horse tourism in New Mexico and to protect and preserve wild
7 horses in New Mexico; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
9 transmitted to each Native American nation, tribe and pueblo in
10 New Mexico.

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