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HOUSE MEMORIAL 21

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013

INTRODUCED BY

Candy Spence Ezzell

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT LOCAL OFFICIALS SUPPORT LOCAL EFFORTS TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN AND OPPOSE ITS LISTING AS "THREATENED" PURSUANT TO THE FEDERAL ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT.

WHEREAS, the United States fish and wildlife service announced its decision to begin consideration of the listing of the lesser prairie chicken as "threatened" under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico office of the United States bureau of land management, the New Mexico state land office and the New Mexico department of game and fish have been working diligently with landowners, lessees and industry partners for years in an effort to preserve and protect the lesser prairie chicken and its habitat; and

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1 WHEREAS, the governors of the states of Kansas, Oklahoma,
2 Colorado, Texas and New Mexico have announced that in early
3 2013 they will release a five-state strategy demonstrating
4 their states' ability to manage, protect and support local
5 ecosystems and avoid unwarranted listings by the United States
6 fish and wildlife service; and

7 WHEREAS, the New Mexico department of game and fish is
8 actively participating with other agencies and states in the
9 development of a range-wide lesser prairie chicken management
10 plan designed to achieve the following goals:

11 A. develop range-wide population and habitat goals
12 and monitoring strategies that may be implemented in each
13 affected state;

14 B. unify targeting for voluntary conservation
15 practices across all agencies and other partners under a
16 range-wide strategy; and

17 C. develop a common framework for offsets or
18 mitigation and promote conservation agreements with industry;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, each of the affected states is committed to
21 pursuing public-private partnerships for the protection of the
22 lesser prairie chicken and its habitat; and

23 WHEREAS, a "threatened" listing pursuant to the federal
24 Endangered Species Act of 1973 of the lesser prairie chicken at
25 this time would undermine the ongoing state, local and private

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1 efforts and would also be premature;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico
4 congressional delegation, the governor, the commissioner of
5 public lands, the director of the New Mexico state office of
6 the federal bureau of land management and the director of the
7 New Mexico department of game and fish be called upon to
8 support the continuing state, local and private efforts to
9 preserve and protect the lesser prairie chicken and oppose the
10 listing of this species under the federal Endangered Species
11 Act of 1973; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the members of the New Mexico congressional
14 delegation; the governor; the commissioner of public lands; the
15 director of the New Mexico state office of the federal bureau
16 of land management; the director of the New Mexico department
17 of game and fish; the legislatures and the governors of the
18 states of Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado and Texas; and the
19 director and other appropriate officers of the United States
20 fish and wildlife service.