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HOUSE MEMORIAL 66

**52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015**

INTRODUCED BY

Alonzo Baldonado

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO FORMALLY ENGAGE AND REQUEST THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR TO DEVELOP A RECOVERY PLAN IN 2015 FOR MEXICAN WOLVES AND TO ESTABLISH A FUND TO REIMBURSE LIVESTOCK OWNERS FOR LOSSES CAUSED BY WOLVES.

WHEREAS, the livestock industry in New Mexico contributed one billion seven hundred fifty million dollars (\$1,750,000,000) in 2012 to the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, the hunting industry in New Mexico contributes about three hundred forty-five million dollars (\$345,000,000) annually to the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, more than fourteen thousand New Mexicans are directly employed by the livestock industry in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, nearly five thousand New Mexicans are directly employed by the hunting industry in New Mexico; and

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1           WHEREAS, the United States fish and wildlife service has  
2 implemented a Mexican wolf introduction program in New Mexico;  
3 and

4           WHEREAS, the United States fish and wildlife service  
5 recently enacted a new law regarding Mexican wolves that  
6 greatly expands the area in New Mexico where wolves will be  
7 released and new wolf packs will be established; and

8           WHEREAS, Mexican wolf depredation and failed federal  
9 interdiction policies have caused enormous economic harm to the  
10 livestock industry and local communities in southwestern New  
11 Mexico; and

12           WHEREAS, wolf introduction efforts elsewhere in the United  
13 States have led to similar effects on the livestock industry  
14 and caused drastic decreases in wild deer and elk populations  
15 while wolf populations increased; and

16           WHEREAS, expanding Mexican wolf populations threaten to  
17 drastically reduce wild ungulate populations, which would lead  
18 to reduced hunting license sales and associated jobs, as  
19 documented in the northern Rocky mountains; and

20           WHEREAS, the federal government has failed to adequately  
21 analyze the potential future negative environmental and  
22 economic impacts of the revised federal Mexican wolf  
23 introduction program; and

24           WHEREAS, the congressionally mandated goal of delisting  
25 Mexican wolves from the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973

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1 is currently impossible, as there are no rangewide population  
2 objectives for Mexican wolves that have been publicly or  
3 scientifically vetted, and the federal government has failed to  
4 complete the lawfully required recovery plan;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
6 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be  
7 requested to formally engage the United States department of  
8 the interior and request the United States fish and wildlife  
9 service to complete the lawfully required recovery plan for  
10 Mexican wolves by December 2015 and request the department of  
11 the interior to prioritize adequate funding for a meaningful  
12 compensation fund to offset livestock losses by Mexican wolves  
13 in New Mexico; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
15 transmitted to the United States secretary of the interior and  
16 to the governor.