

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT TO STUDY THE
3 FEASIBILITY OF SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION TO THE UNITED
4 NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION FOR
5 THE INCLUSION OF LOS LUCEROS AS A FUTURE WORLD HERITAGE SITE
6 IN ANTICIPATION OF THE UNITED STATES REJOINING THE UNITED
7 NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION.
8

9 WHEREAS, New Mexico is renowned for its artistic
10 temperament and stunning historic landscape; and

11 WHEREAS, one of the most historically significant and
12 impressive sites in the state is the one-hundred-forty-eight-
13 acre Los Luceros historic property located north of Espanola
14 along the Rio Grande near the village of Alcalde; and

15 WHEREAS, ancient peoples once farmed and dwelled on Los
16 Luceros land, and two Pueblo communities are located next to
17 the land; and

18 WHEREAS, Los Luceros is the core of an early Spanish
19 land grant that was established by General Don Diego DeVargas
20 in 1705 and has been known by many names over the centuries,
21 but the name that stuck is Los Luceros, the morning stars;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, during the Mexican period of New Mexico
24 history, from 1821 to 1846, Los Luceros evolved into a
25 sustainable working farm and ranch; and

1 WHEREAS, in the waning years of Mexican rule, Los
2 Luceros was the county seat for Rio Arriba county; and

3 WHEREAS, the territorial period of New Mexico's history,
4 from 1846 to 1912, was an era that brought new laws, new
5 people, a new language and many economic and social schemes
6 to the region, according to *El Palacio* author Michael Miller;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, after New Mexico achieved statehood, the Los
9 Luceros area absorbed an influx of women from the eastern
10 United States, including Mary Cabot Wheelwright, who bought
11 Los Luceros and made it into an estate that employed local
12 Native Americans and Hispanos; and

13 WHEREAS, Mary Cabot Wheelwright led an active social
14 life and introduced many artistic friends to the southwest;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, when Mary Cabot Wheelwright died in 1958, she
17 bequeathed the ranch house at Los Luceros to the Wheelwright
18 museum in Santa Fe and left the remaining property to her
19 friend, Maria Chabot; and

20 WHEREAS, the museum declined the bequest and the ranch
21 house reverted to Maria Chabot, who then enlisted her friend,
22 Georgia O'Keeffe, to find a buyer; and

23 WHEREAS, Charles Collier, a friend of Georgia
24 O'Keeffe's, purchased the property and lived there with his
25 wife, Nina, until selling the property in the 1970s; and

1 WHEREAS, a series of owners tried to maintain the
2 property in the following years; and

3 WHEREAS, in 1983, Los Luceros was placed on the national
4 register of historic places and the property is also on the
5 New Mexico state register of cultural properties; and

6 WHEREAS, the cultural affairs department purchased the
7 Los Luceros property in 2008 and is working to ensure the
8 site's preservation and integrity in perpetuity; and

9 WHEREAS, today, the centerpiece of the historic ranch
10 complex is the hacienda, a five-thousand-seven-hundred-
11 square-foot, eighteenth century territorial-style adobe home;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, the renovated property also includes a
14 visitor's center, director's residence, visitor center
15 complex and irrigated pasture and bosque on the Rio Grande;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, the cultural affairs department's intent is to
18 bring together historic preservation, filmmaking, education
19 and training and agricultural and environmental interests;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Los Luceros is used as a cultural destination
22 with interpretative exhibits and public access, as a retreat
23 center for workshops and seminars related to New Mexico's
24 film industry and for crop-growing and environmental studies
25 programs; and

1 WHEREAS, the United Nations educational, scientific and
2 cultural organization seeks to encourage the identification,
3 protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage
4 around the world that is considered to be of outstanding
5 value to humanity; and

6 WHEREAS, the application process for a United Nations
7 educational, scientific and cultural organization designation
8 is rigorous; and

9 WHEREAS, New Mexico has three United Nations
10 educational, scientific and cultural organization designated
11 sites: the Pueblo of Taos, Carlsbad caverns national park
12 and Chaco culture, which includes Chaco culture national
13 historical park, Aztec ruins national monument and several
14 smaller Chaco sites managed by the United States bureau of
15 land management; and

16 WHEREAS, these world heritage sites bring significant
17 prestige to New Mexico and are a significant boost to tourism
18 and the economy; and

19 WHEREAS, historic Los Luceros lies halfway between Santa
20 Fe and Taos, two major tourist destinations in New Mexico;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, the Pueblo of Taos welcomes millions of
23 visitors a year, Carlsbad caverns national park reports over
24 four hundred ten thousand visitors a year and Chaco culture
25 reports five hundred fifty thousand visitors a year; and

1 WHEREAS, a historic property of Los Luceros'
2 significance deserves wider recognition and is deserving of
3 inclusion as a United Nations educational, scientific and
4 cultural organization world heritage site; and

5 WHEREAS, as a heritage site, Los Luceros could have the
6 potential of attracting one hundred thousand visitors a year,
7 and, at an estimated ten-dollar (\$10.00) entry fee per
8 visitor, could generate an income of one million dollars
9 (\$1,000,000) a year;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
11 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the cultural
12 affairs department be requested to study the feasibility of
13 submitting an application to the United Nations educational,
14 scientific and cultural organization for the inclusion of Los
15 Luceros as a future world heritage site in anticipation of
16 the United States rejoining the United Nations educational,
17 scientific and cultural organization; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the secretary of cultural affairs and the
20 president of los amigos del rancho Los Luceros. _____