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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012

INTRODUCED BY

FOR THE INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO PROMOTE THE CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE FORT SILL, CHIRICAHUA-WARM SPRINGS APACHE TRIBE'S ABORIGINAL TERRITORY IN SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, members of the federally recognized Fort Sill, Chiricahua-Warm Springs Apache Tribe are the descendants of the Mogollon Apaches, Mimbres Apaches, Copper Mine Apaches, Warm Springs Apaches and Chiricahua Apaches tribes whose aboriginal territory, former reservation and Indian title lands included much of southwest New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, those tribes maintained aboriginal and Indian title to their land in New Mexico and Arizona until the final surrender of the great Apache, Geronimo, his war party and the remaining tribal members to the United States military on September 4, 1886; and

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1 WHEREAS, the entire tribe was taken into captivity in 1886
2 and remained in captivity until 1913, when the surviving
3 members were released, with two-thirds of the members
4 transferred to the Mescalero Apache Tribe reservation, thus
5 becoming members of that tribe, and the remaining members
6 released in Oklahoma, becoming federally recognized as the Fort
7 Sill Apache in 1976; and

8 WHEREAS, the members of the Fort Sill, Chiricahua-Warm
9 Springs Apache Tribe continuously sought to return to their
10 aboriginal homelands in New Mexico, which were the lifeblood
11 and heritage of the tribe; and

12 WHEREAS, the spirits of the ancestors of the Fort Sill,
13 Chiricahua-Warm Springs Apache Tribe, including Cochise,
14 Geronimo, Victorio, Lozen, Naiche and Mangas Coloradas, are
15 interwoven into the fabric of New Mexico's history and culture;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, a major triumph for the Fort Sill, Chiricahua-
18 Warm Springs Apaches in returning to their homeland was the
19 purchase of thirty acres in Akela Flats, Luna county, New
20 Mexico, which was subsequently taken into trust by the federal
21 government on behalf of the Fort Sill, Chiricahua-Warm Springs
22 Apaches in 2002; and

23 WHEREAS, the tribe has operated a cultural awareness
24 center, restaurant and smoke shop since 2007 on the tribe's
25 federal Indian trust land at Akela Flats in Luna county, New

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1 Mexico; and

2 WHEREAS, the Fort Sill, Chiricahua-Warm Springs Apaches'
3 federal Indian trust land at Akela Flats and the surrounding
4 lands have significant cultural and historical importance for
5 the tribe and surrounding communities; and

6 WHEREAS, the Fort Sill, Chiricahua-Warm Springs Apache
7 Tribe encourages involvement and participation by working hard
8 to educate citizens of the area by providing cultural awareness
9 of the heritage of southwest New Mexico and the tribe's
10 historical significance; and

11 WHEREAS, the tribe is working to increase cultural
12 awareness, tourism and economic development in southwest New
13 Mexico through collaboration with local, state and federal
14 partners; and

15 WHEREAS, the tribe has possession and access to
16 significant cultural and historic artifacts, which it will
17 display to the public to provide an attraction in Luna county;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it request the executive branch,
20 through its departments and agencies, to promote the cultural
21 and economic development of the Fort Sill, Chiricahua-Warm
22 Springs Apache Tribe within the tribe's legally defined
23 homelands, as held in the United States court of claims in *Fort*
24 *Sill Apache Tribe v. United States*, and throughout southwest
25 New Mexico; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the chair of the Fort Sill, Chiricahua-Warm Springs Apache Tribe, Governor Susana Martinez, the leaders of the other twenty-two Indian nations, tribes and pueblos located in New Mexico and the New Mexico congressional delegation.