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**HOUSE MEMORIAL 7**

**45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001**

**INTRODUCED BY**

**Max Coll**

**A MEMORIAL**

**REQUESTING THE MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO AND ITS BOARD OF REGENTS  
TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WHEN ENTERING INTO  
LICENSE AGREEMENTS IN THE FUTURE.**

**WHEREAS, the purpose of the Cultural Properties Act is  
"to provide for the preservation, protection and enhancement  
of structures, sites and objects of historical significance  
within the state", Section 18-6-2 NMSA 1978; and**

**WHEREAS, state law designates the museum of New Mexico as  
the repository for "all properties, real or personal, now held  
for museum purposes and all properties, real or personal,  
which may be acquired for museum purposes at any time in the  
future" and places those properties "under the control of the  
museum division of the office of cultural affairs", Section  
18-3-1 NMSA 1978; and**

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1           WHEREAS, the board of regents of the museum of New Mexico  
2 is designated by law as the trustee of the collections of the  
3 museum, Section 18-3-3 NMSA 1978; and

4           WHEREAS, within the collections of the museum are a  
5 substantial number of excellent examples of Spanish colonial  
6 furniture; and

7           WHEREAS, the design and construction of Spanish colonial  
8 furniture date from the time of Onate's arrival in 1598 and  
9 continue to this day because the original designs, the process  
10 of construction and the finishing techniques have customarily  
11 been passed from one generation to the next; today, many New  
12 Mexico families depend on the making and selling of their  
13 furniture and other crafts for financial survival; and

14           WHEREAS, the museum of New Mexico and its board of  
15 regents have entered into a licensing agreement with the  
16 museum of New Mexico foundation, incorporated, a private  
17 nonprofit organization, and that foundation has in turn sub-  
18 licensed reproduction of museum pieces to a commercial  
19 manufacturer of furniture located outside of the state,  
20 thereby creating and promoting substantial competition with  
21 New Mexico traditional furniture makers; and

22           WHEREAS, the circumstances described raise questions  
23 about whether the museum and its board of regents are acting  
24 fairly in fulfilling their respective statutory duties and  
25 trusteeship of the museum's collection;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the museum of  
New Mexico and its board of regents consider additional  
organizations when entering into license agreements in the  
future; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
transmitted to the governor.