

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 41

2 47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Steve Komadina

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO LOOK AT IMPROVING
12 MANAGEMENT OF WILD HORSE HERDS AND REQUESTING THE STATE AND
13 FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS TO DEVELOP TOURISM PROGRAMS AT NATIONAL
14 WILD HORSE TERRITORIES AND OTHER WILD HORSE RANGES.

15
16 WHEREAS, New Mexico started out with twelve national wild
17 horse territories but now has only three territories; and

18 WHEREAS, the wild horse population of New Mexico on
19 federal lands in 1973 was over six thousand, but currently the
20 total wild horse population of New Mexico on federal lands is
21 under four hundred and is targeted at two hundred eighteen; and

22 WHEREAS, wild horses of Spanish colonial descent are part
23 of New Mexico's living heritage and history, but they are
24 endangered and may become extinct in New Mexico; and

25 WHEREAS, there are increased efforts in the state to

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1 ensure the preservation of the descendants of those horses who
2 came to the new world with the conquistadores, one means being
3 DNA testing of wild horses and removing Spanish-line horses to
4 separate preserves; and

5 WHEREAS, like the buffalo, wild horses are emblematic of
6 the old west, and it is the image of wild horses running free
7 across the plains of the west that lives in the hearts and
8 minds of Americans; and

9 WHEREAS, it was with this idea in mind that the United
10 States congress recognized that these living symbols of the
11 historic pioneer spirit of the west were fast disappearing from
12 the American scene and passed the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and
13 Burros Act of 1971 to protect wild horses; and

14 WHEREAS, the wild horse is part of New Mexico's
15 enchantment and essence and an integral part of the Indian,
16 Hispanic, ranching and farming cultures; and

17 WHEREAS, although tourism is the second largest industry
18 in the state, the national wild horse territories in New Mexico
19 are not advertised by either the federal or state governments;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, the state, in particular, is missing an
22 opportunity to draw thousands of tourists from all over the
23 world who are intrigued by the history, culture and art of the
24 American west;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE

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1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the federal government be requested to
2 develop the three existing wild horse territories in New Mexico
3 and to open other national wild horse territories in New Mexico
4 where herds currently exist; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government
6 endeavor to maintain a minimum herd size of two hundred in each
7 national wild horse territory for genetic viability and for
8 tourism; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government control
10 wild horse populations by the use of contraception rather than
11 sale of excess animals; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when overpopulation does
13 exist, the federal government move the excess animals to other
14 wild horse territories, preferably in New Mexico, or place them
15 with private or state wild horse preserves after DNA testing to
16 determine if the horses are Spanish-line descendants; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that helicopters not be used in the
18 state's rugged terrain to round up wild horses, especially
19 during foaling season; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government honor
21 the cultural heritage and history of New Mexico by maintaining
22 Spanish-line and other wild horse populations for the enjoyment
23 and education of New Mexico residents and other visitors to the
24 state; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state government be

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1 requested to develop advertising and other tourist-related
2 information featuring the wild horses of New Mexico; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
4 transmitted to the bureau of land management of the Unite
5 States department of the interior, the secretary of the
6 interior, the New Mexico congressional delegation, the New
7 Mexico tourism department and the governor of New Mexico.

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