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SENATE MEMORIAL 10

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006

INTRODUCED BY

John T. L. Grubestic

A MEMORIAL

ADOPTING COCKFIGHTING AS THE STATE DISGRACE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, cockfighting involves intentionally pitting two roosters against each other in a fight that ends only when one of the birds is so injured that the bird can no longer fight or until one of the birds is killed; and

WHEREAS, fighting roosters are armed with steel knives or ice pick-like gaffs; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is one of only two states that allow legal cockfighting; and

WHEREAS, cockfighting is banned in thirteen New Mexico counties and twenty-nine municipalities; and

WHEREAS, public opinion polling shows that as many as eighty-one percent of New Mexico voters support a statewide ban

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1 on cockfighting; and

2 WHEREAS, dogfighting and intentional cruelty to animals
3 are felonies in New Mexico; and

4 WHEREAS, cockfighting encourages and breeds other
5 activities that are illegal and classified as crimes in New
6 Mexico, such as illegal gambling and violations of the Liquor
7 Control Act; and

8 WHEREAS, federal law seeks to eliminate all animal
9 fighting through a prohibition on the interstate movement of
10 fighting animals; and

11 WHEREAS, cockfighting is a threat to public health and
12 agriculture as it has been implicated in the transmission of
13 diseases such as exotic Newcastle disease, which decimated
14 commercial poultry flocks in several states in 2002 and 2003,
15 and avian influenza, which is on the verge of causing a deadly
16 pandemic; and

17 WHEREAS, New Mexico's economy is dependent upon tourism,
18 which relies upon the positive image the state portrays beyond
19 its borders; and

20 WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature has failed to enact a
21 statewide ban on cockfighting;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
23 OF NEW MEXICO that cockfighting be adopted as the official
24 disgrace of New Mexico; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

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1 transmitted to the office of the governor; the tourism
2 department; the New Mexico department of agriculture; the
3 department of health; the department of public safety; and the
4 of cultural affairs department.

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