

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF WILD HORSES.

WHEREAS, there are wild horses currently living on public lands in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, a wild horse preserve could prompt local economic development by drawing tourists into a region to see nondomesticated horses in a natural state; and

WHEREAS, a wild horse preserve could link historic and cultural tourism to attract visitors; and

WHEREAS, a wild horse preserve could serve as a valuable resource for educational and youth-oriented organizations; and

WHEREAS, there exist in other areas of the country successful wild horse preserves with herds ranging in size from one hundred sixty to six hundred fifty horses with preserves from three hundred twenty to nine thousand acres in size; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no facility for caring for feral and abandoned horses in McKinley county; and

WHEREAS, a horse rescue facility in McKinley county would reduce the property damage and public nuisance caused by wild horses in McKinley county and could prepare wild horses for adoption;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it request the governor to establish a commission for the preservation of wild horses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission for the preservation of wild horses have as its primary purpose the preservation of viable herds of wild horses on public lands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the activities of the commission for the preservation of wild horses include promoting the management and protection of wild horses, acting as a liaison between the state, the public and parties interested in the preservation of wild horses, advising the governor on issues affecting wild horses, developing and coordinating projects to study wild horses and their habitat, making information about wild horses available to the news media and the general public, managing the Heil trust fund for wild horses and reporting to the legislature on the commission's activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission conduct a study regarding the establishment of horse rescue facilities and report its findings and recommendations to the appropriate interim legislative committees; and

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