Introduced by
Joni Marie Gutierrez

A Joint Memorial

Declaring Pluto a planet and declaring March 13, 2007, "Pluto
Planet Day" at the legislature.

Whereas, the state of New Mexico is a global center for
astronomy, astrophysics and planetary science; and

Whereas, New Mexico is home to world class astronomical
observing facilities, such as the Apache Point observatory,
the Very Large Array, the Magdalena Ridge observatory and the
national Solar observatory; and

Whereas, Apache Point observatory, operated by New Mexico
state university, houses the astrophysical research
collaboration's three-and-one-half meter telescope, as well as
the unique two-and-one-half meter diameter Sloan digital sky
survey telescope; and

Whereas, New Mexico state university has the state's only
independent, doctorate-granting astronomy department; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico state university and Dona Ana county were the longtime home of Clyde Tombaugh, discoverer of Pluto; and

WHEREAS, Pluto has been recognized as a planet for seventy-five years; and

WHEREAS, Pluto's average orbit is three billion six hundred ninety-five million nine hundred fifty thousand miles from the sun, and its diameter is approximately one thousand four hundred twenty-one miles; and

WHEREAS, Pluto has three moons known as Charon, Nix and Hydra; and

WHEREAS, a spacecraft called new horizons was launched in January 2006 to explore Pluto in the year 2015;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that, as Pluto passes overhead through New Mexico's excellent night skies, it be declared a planet and that March 13, 2007 be declared "Pluto Planet Day" at the legislature.