

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 41

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011

INTRODUCED BY

Brian F. Egolf and Peter Wirth

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING SUPPORT FOR THE REESTABLISHMENT OF THE HISTORIC
SOUTHWEST REGION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND THE
PRESERVATION OF THE NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT REGIONAL OFFICE
BUILDING IN SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, in 1939, the southwest region of the national
park service was relocated to Santa Fe and was housed in a
newly completed office building constructed by enrollees from
the New Mexico civilian conservation corps and the works
progress administration; and

WHEREAS, following an evaluation of its field operations
in 1995, the national park service reduced the number of its
regional offices, from ten to seven, requiring the
redistribution of the almost four hundred national park service
units among the remaining regions; and

.185231.2

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 WHEREAS, despite its historic tenure, the southwest region
2 and its regional office were among those abolished, and its
3 park units combined with those of the Rocky Mountain region to
4 its north to form a new region named the intermountain region
5 with headquarters in Denver, Colorado; and

6 WHEREAS, at the time of the 1995 reorganization, the
7 southwest region was responsible for forty park units in New
8 Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and the
9 northeastern part of Arizona; and

10 WHEREAS, the intermountain region is now the largest
11 region in the national park service with ninety-two park units
12 in eight states, ranging from Glacier national park in Montana
13 to Big Bend national park in Texas, comprising almost
14 one-fourth of the parks in the entire national park service;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, the intermountain region is deemed by
17 professionals with extensive national park service backgrounds
18 as being too large to effectively manage the region's parks and
19 the regional office in Denver is too distant from the region's
20 southern parks, resulting in diminished support and service to
21 many of its units, in particular the archaeological and
22 cultural parks of the former southwest region that have
23 required specialized preservation and conservation care; and

24 WHEREAS, the southwest regional office is the largest
25 secular adobe office building in the United States; is a

.185231.2

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 masterpiece of Spanish-Pueblo revival architecture; is a
2 keystone in the administrative history of the national park
3 service; is an important complement to the history and
4 architecture of Santa Fe; is a national historic landmark; and
5 is listed on the national register of historic places; and

6 WHEREAS, the abolishment of the southwest regional office
7 has affected the economy of the local community, since most of
8 its former functions have now been transferred to the new
9 intermountain regional office in Denver, threatening the
10 continued viability of the Santa Fe building; and

11 WHEREAS, in 1989, the thirty-ninth legislature of the
12 state of New Mexico commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of
13 the construction of the historic structure known as the
14 "National Park Service Southwest Regional Office", one of Santa
15 Fe's most notable publicly owned buildings and noted that
16 throughout its existence, it had been the main regional
17 headquarters for the national park service, the nation's
18 leading federal preservation agency responsible for historic
19 preservation; and

20 WHEREAS, the legislature further recognized the
21 construction of the regional office by enrollees of the New
22 Mexico's group of civilian conservation corps and acknowledged
23 the national park service's praiseworthy and long-standing role
24 in administering the numerous parks and monuments in the state
25 from its traditional southwest regional office, all to the

.185231.2

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 lasting benefit and enrichment of the people of New Mexico and
2 the nation; and

3 WHEREAS, this praiseworthy function ceased to exist as a
4 result of the reorganization of the national park service in
5 1995 that abolished the southwest region and regional office
6 without regard to its historic role in the management and
7 preservation of the parks and monuments in New Mexico;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that all possible federal and state efforts
10 be made to reverse the national park service reorganization of
11 1995 as it has affected the historic southwest region and its
12 equally historic southwest regional office building in Santa
13 Fe, New Mexico, and restore the regional office to its historic
14 role; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
16 transmitted to the president of the United States, the
17 secretary of the interior, the director of the national park
18 service, the New Mexico congressional delegation and the
19 governor of New Mexico.