

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY  
3 OF THE SIGNING OF THE MORRILL ACT OF 1862 AND SUBSEQUENT  
4 FEDERAL LEGISLATION THAT CREATED AND ENHANCED THE MISSION OF  
5 NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY, NEW MEXICO'S LAND-GRANT COLLEGE.  
6

7 WHEREAS, the Morrill Act of 1862, which was enacted by  
8 the United States congress and signed into law on July 2,  
9 1862 by President Abraham Lincoln, authorized the formation  
10 of land-grant colleges in all of the states and territories;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, under the act, each eligible state received a  
13 total of thirty thousand acres of federal land, either within  
14 or contiguous to its boundaries, for each member of congress  
15 that the state had as of the 1860 census; and

16 WHEREAS, the purpose of establishing land-grant colleges  
17 was, according to language in the act, "without excluding  
18 other scientific and classical studies, and including  
19 military tactic, to teach such branches of learning as are  
20 related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, in such manner  
21 as the legislatures of the States may respectively prescribe,  
22 in order to promote the liberal and practical education of  
23 the industrial classes in the several pursuits and  
24 professions in life"; and

25 WHEREAS, the Hatch Act of 1887 created the agricultural

1 experiment station system within the agricultural colleges of  
2 land-grant universities for the purpose of conducting  
3 fundamental and applied research to address a state's  
4 agricultural, environmental and economic issues to benefit  
5 communities in every part of the state; and

6 WHEREAS, the New Mexico territorial legislature of 1889  
7 established the land-grant "agriculture college and  
8 experiment station", which officially opened on January 21,  
9 1890; and

10 WHEREAS, during its first full academic year, the  
11 college became known as the "New Mexico college of  
12 agriculture and mechanic arts", the first degree-granting  
13 institution in the New Mexico territory; and

14 WHEREAS, under the provisions of the Morrill Act of 1862  
15 and subsequent federal legislation, the special mission of  
16 land-grant institutions has been to provide a liberal and  
17 practical education for students and to sustain programs of  
18 research, extension education and public service; and

19 WHEREAS, the Smith-Lever Act of 1914 established the  
20 cooperative extension service within the agricultural  
21 colleges of land-grant universities to disseminate the  
22 research findings of agricultural experiment station  
23 scientists; and

24 WHEREAS, as a result, New Mexico state university's  
25 agricultural experiment station's research addresses issues

1 raised by New Mexicans and disseminates this research-based  
2 knowledge through classroom teaching and statewide  
3 cooperative extension offices, thereby significantly  
4 broadening the outreach and impact of New Mexico state  
5 university; and

6 WHEREAS, the Morrill Act of 1862 and subsequent federal  
7 legislation continue to provide New Mexico state university  
8 and its college of agricultural, consumer and environmental  
9 sciences with the research and outreach mission to produce  
10 and disseminate research-based knowledge to inform  
11 agricultural industries, natural resource management practice  
12 and policies, businesses, public agencies, households,  
13 families and individuals, thereby providing science-based  
14 solutions for New Mexico and helping to sustain and maintain  
15 America's leadership and competitiveness in the twenty-first  
16 century and beyond;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
18 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it recognize and value the enactment  
19 of the Morrill Act of 1862 and of subsequent federal  
20 legislation, all of which have leveraged billions of dollars  
21 into the state's economy, educated hundreds of thousands of  
22 New Mexicans, helped establish thousands of business  
23 enterprises, worked to preserve diverse cultures and  
24 traditions, supplied the building blocks for strong  
25 individuals and families and consistently improved the

1 economic, social, environmental, agricultural and natural  
2 resource interests for all New Mexico residents, in all  
3 counties and in all Native American communities statewide;  
4 and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
6 transmitted to the board of regents of New Mexico state  
7 university in honor and celebration of the sesquicentennial  
8 anniversary of the signing of the Morrill Act of 1862. \_\_\_\_\_

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