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HOUSE MEMORIAL 23

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012

INTRODUCED BY

Andy Nuñez

A MEMORIAL

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the purpose of establishing land-grant colleges was, according to language in the act, "without excluding other

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1 scientific and classical studies, and including military
2 tactic, to teach such branches of learning as are related to
3 agriculture and the mechanic arts, in such manner as the
4 legislatures of the States may respectively prescribe, in order
5 to promote the liberal and practical education of the
6 industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions in
7 life"; and

8 WHEREAS, the Hatch Act of 1887 created the agricultural
9 experiment station system within the agricultural colleges of
10 land-grant universities for the purpose of conducting
11 fundamental and applied research to address a state's
12 agricultural, environmental and economic issues to benefit
13 communities in every part of the state; and

14 WHEREAS, the New Mexico territorial legislature of 1889
15 established the land-grant "agriculture college and experiment
16 station", which officially opened on January 21, 1890; and

17 WHEREAS, during its first full academic year, the college
18 became known as the "New Mexico college of agriculture and
19 mechanic arts", the first degree-granting institution in the
20 New Mexico territory; and

21 WHEREAS, under the provisions of the Morrill Act of 1862
22 and subsequent federal legislation, the special mission of
23 land-grant institutions has been to provide a liberal and
24 practical education for students and to sustain programs of
25 research, extension education and public service; and

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1 WHEREAS, the Smith-Lever Act of 1914 established the
2 cooperative extension service within the agricultural colleges
3 of land-grant universities to disseminate the research findings
4 of agricultural experiment station scientists; and

5 WHEREAS, as a result, New Mexico state university's
6 agricultural experiment station's research addresses issues
7 raised by New Mexicans and disseminates this research-based
8 knowledge through classroom teaching and statewide cooperative
9 extension offices, thereby significantly broadening the
10 outreach and impact of New Mexico state university; and

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

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
22 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it recognize
23 and value the enactment of the Morrill Act of 1862 and of
24 subsequent federal legislation, all of which have leveraged
25 billions of dollars into the state's economy, educated hundreds

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1 of thousands of New Mexicans, helped establish thousands of
2 business enterprises, worked to preserve diverse cultures and
3 traditions, supplied the building blocks for strong individuals
4 and families and consistently improved the economic, social,
5 environmental, agricultural and natural resource interests for
6 all New Mexico residents, in all counties and in all Native
7 American communities statewide; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
9 transmitted to the board of regents of New Mexico state
10 university in honor and celebration of the sesquicentennial
11 anniversary of the signing of the Morrill Act of 1862.