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SENATE MEMORIAL 75

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

INTRODUCED BY

Tim Eichenberg

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO DIRECT THE
APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO HEAR TESTIMONY ON ANIMAL FUR TRAPPING
IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, animal traps are indiscriminate, capturing those
not intended for the trap, including endangered animals, pets
and people, and can leave permanent physical damage to anything
that gets caught; and

WHEREAS, coyotes and skunks can be trapped year-round
without a license, so traps are placed in New Mexico year-
round; and

WHEREAS, a 2005 statewide survey of New Mexicans revealed
that sixty-three percent of voters are against trapping on
public lands and that fifty-nine percent of New Mexicans are
unaware that trapping is legal on public lands or believe

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1 wrongly that trapping is illegal on public lands; and

2 WHEREAS, Arizona, Colorado, California and Washington have
3 banned trapping on public lands; and

4 WHEREAS, animals suffer pain, trauma and stress when held
5 by traps, and immobilized animals can experience dehydration,
6 hunger, panic-induced self-mutilation, exposure to weather and
7 predation, all of which constitute animal cruelty; and

8 WHEREAS, New Mexico has conducted few wildlife population
9 studies, and no one knows how many animals are trapped for
10 their fur; and

11 WHEREAS, according to the United States fish and wildlife
12 service, wildlife watchers spend two hundred ninety-seven
13 million dollars (\$297,000,000) annually in New Mexico, while,
14 according to a 2004 study by the department of game and fish,
15 trapping netted the state only six hundred seventy-one thousand
16 dollars (\$671,000) that year; and

17 WHEREAS, the number of fur trappers in New Mexico is
18 approximately two thousand, less than one-hundredth of a
19 percent of the total state population, and they pay only twenty
20 dollars (\$20.00) for a resident license; and

21 WHEREAS, the department game and fish imposes no limits on
22 how many animals can be killed by licensed trappers, nor has
23 the department established trapping zones, so heavily trapped
24 subpopulations can be wiped out completely; and

25 WHEREAS, the department of game and fish does not require

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1 that trappers report unprotected and nontarget wildlife that
2 inadvertently gets caught in traps, such as coatimundis and
3 porcupines, nor must trappers report the capture of people's
4 pets;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
6 OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council be
7 requested to direct the appropriate committee of the
8 legislature to hear testimony on animal fur trapping in New
9 Mexico; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative
12 council.