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SENATE MEMORIAL 83

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

INTRODUCED BY

Mary Kay Papen

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT A
PROPERTY STATUS, PROGRAM AND USE AUDIT OF THE LOS LUCEROS
PROPERTY IN RIO ARRIBA COUNTY.

WHEREAS, Los Luceros is a one-hundred-thirty-acre property
of great historic and natural value, located in the Espanola
Valley near Alcalde, which was purchased by the state to enable
greater access to the property by the public; and

WHEREAS, the state gained ownership of Los Luceros in 2008
with the aim of providing public access to the historic
property, developing a retreat center for workshops, conducting
seminars connected to New Mexico's film industry and providing
a site for crop testing and environmental studies programming;
and

WHEREAS, the estate was first owned by Luis Maria Ortiz, a
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1 seventh-generation descendant of colonists who arrived with Don
2 Diego de Vargas, for whom the main house, or casa grande, was
3 constructed; and

4 WHEREAS, Mary Cabot Wheelwright, the founder of the museum
5 that now bears her name, purchased the property in 1923 and
6 lived there until her death in 1958; and

7 WHEREAS, Mary Wheelwright's heirs invested in a major
8 renovation of the property, which was completed in 2001; and

9 WHEREAS, the structures on the grounds include the casa
10 grande, which at one time acted as the county seat; an old
11 jail; the Capilla de la Sagrada Familia chapel; a new visitors
12 center and other facilities with historic significance; and

13 WHEREAS, the grounds also include orchards, a bosque and
14 irrigated pastures, all of which provide habitat for at least
15 one hundred sixty-two species of birds, both migratory and
16 permanent residents, as well as many species of mammals and
17 reptiles; and

18 WHEREAS, Los Luceros has been listed on the national
19 register of historic places since 1983; and

20 WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2010, money was appropriated to
21 the cultural affairs department by the legislature to complete
22 a master plan for the use of Los Luceros; and

23 WHEREAS, the property is currently closed and unattended,
24 possibly putting in jeopardy the condition of the structures
25 and plantings on the property, as well as its listing on the

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1 national register of historic places; and

2 WHEREAS, with the property closed, public access to the
3 property is not possible;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
5 OF NEW MEXICO that the cultural affairs department be requested
6 to conduct a property status, program and use audit of the Los
7 Luceros estate to determine if the property is being maintained
8 and used so as to maximize the property's value to the state;
9 and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of cultural
11 affairs be requested to review the master plan for Los Luceros
12 and take any steps necessary to implement the plan or develop a
13 new plan for the occupation and use of Los Luceros and include
14 that in her report to the appropriate interim legislative
15 committees; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the cultural affairs
17 department be requested to report to the interim revenue
18 stabilization and tax policy committee and to the legislative
19 finance committee on its audit findings no later than November
20 1, 2012; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the secretary of cultural affairs.