

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR INCREASED PENALTIES FOR AND EDUCATION
3 ABOUT TROPHY POACHING; REQUESTING THAT THE GOVERNOR DECLARE A
4 TROPHY POACHING AWARENESS DAY.

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6 WHEREAS, wildlife belongs to the citizens of New Mexico
7 and is too precious to be wasted; and

8 WHEREAS, New Mexico has a long tradition of hunting,
9 which provides food for some families, income to local
10 communities and opportunities for tourists to enjoy the
11 animals that roam in this unique state; and

12 WHEREAS, trophy poaching is the act of illegally killing
13 an animal for the most valuable part of its body, such as its
14 head or antlers, and leaving the rest to waste; and

15 WHEREAS, trophy poaching is increasing in New Mexico, is
16 unfair to legal hunters, damaging to big game populations and
17 leaves fewer animals for future generations to enjoy; and

18 WHEREAS, although only a small percentage of the
19 population engages in trophy poaching, these individuals cause
20 significant damage to big game animal populations by depriving
21 them of successful genes for future generations; and

22 WHEREAS, big game animals have inherent value in
23 themselves, value to people who enjoy seeing the animals in
24 their natural habitat and economic value as a draw of tourists
25 and legal hunters to the state; and

1 WHEREAS, trophy animals poached in New Mexico include
2 elk, bighorn sheep, oryx, ibex, Barbary sheep, deer,
3 pronghorn antelope, javelina, bear and cougar; and

4 WHEREAS, existing penalties do not effectively deter
5 trophy poaching; and

6 WHEREAS, more public education is needed about the
7 damage that trophy poaching causes and the need for greater
8 enforcement;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
10 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the importance of wildlife in the
11 state be recognized and that the harm caused by trophy
12 poaching be acknowledged; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of game and
14 fish be requested to take all possible steps to deter trophy
15 poaching; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of game and
17 fish be commended for proposing stiffer penalties for trophy
18 poaching, such as making trophy poaching a fourth degree
19 felony; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of game and
21 fish be requested to take steps to increase public awareness
22 that trophy poaching is illegal and to inform the public
23 about how to report these crimes; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to
25 issue a proclamation declaring a trophy poaching awareness

1 day to further increase public awareness of the problems
2 associated with trophy poaching; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial
4 be transmitted to the governor, the director of the
5 department of game and fish and the chair of the state game
6 commission. _____

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