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SENATE MEMORIAL 87

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

Nancy Rodriguez

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND MEMBERS OF THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT LOCAL EFFORTS TO DESIGNATE THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE REGION III HEADQUARTERS BUILDING AS EITHER A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OR NATIONAL MONUMENT.

WHEREAS, the national park service region III headquarters building, more commonly known as the old Santa Fe trail building, was constructed from 1937 through 1939 through the efforts of the civilian conservation corps and the works progress administration, two federal government organizations that offered meaningful employment and cultural uplift to millions during the great depression; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico and its multicultural population received a greater benefit from these programs than many other

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1 states, including enhancing its ethnic diversity; and

2 WHEREAS, from 1939 to 1995, the building has served as the
3 region III headquarters for the national park service, playing
4 an important role in the development of the national park
5 system, which has been called "America's best idea"; and

6 WHEREAS, there are currently seventy national park service
7 employees who are quartered in the building; and

8 WHEREAS, the building is an outstanding example of
9 institutional adobe architecture, reflecting the natural
10 vernacular architecture of New Mexico and the southwest; and

11 WHEREAS, the exterior of the building has been preserved
12 by the national park service since 1939 and is virtually
13 unchanged since its original design and construction; and

14 WHEREAS, the interior of the building was designed to
15 reflect the same vernacular architecture and contains furniture
16 and artwork that are emblematic of New Mexico and the
17 southwest; and

18 WHEREAS, much of the furniture and artwork was produced by
19 artisans of the civilian conservation corps and the works
20 progress administration, and the national park service has
21 protected and preserved these artifacts as part of its mission
22 to preserve the building; and

23 WHEREAS, public activities in the building have been an
24 important part of Santa Fe's community life and development;
25 and

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1 WHEREAS, the area around the building, commonly known as
2 museum hill, has evolved into a unique array of educational
3 institutions that are highly compatible with the public use of
4 the old Santa Fe trail building, presenting the potential for
5 mutually beneficial federal, state, local, tribal and private-
6 sector cooperation; and

7 WHEREAS, in recognition that the building is historically
8 significant to the entire nation, it was designated as a
9 national historic landmark in 1987 by the United States
10 secretary of the interior; and

11 WHEREAS, congress is now being asked to designate the old
12 Santa Fe trail building as a national historic site to honor
13 workers throughout the nation who lent their talents and labor
14 to the civilian conservation corps and the works progress
15 administration; and

16 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial if the story of that era
17 of the nation's history were documented and celebrated before
18 those who worked in the civilian conservation corps and the
19 works progress administration are all gone; and

20 WHEREAS, the building is a fitting site from which to
21 educate the nation about the deeds of these important workers
22 and to honor their memory;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
24 OF NEW MEXICO that the president of the United States and
25 members of the New Mexico congressional delegation be requested

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1 to support local efforts to designate the old Santa Fe trail
2 building as a civilian conservation corps and works progress
3 administration national historic site; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, alternatively, the president
5 of the United States be urged to proclaim the old Santa Fe
6 trail building as the civilian conservation corps and works
7 progress administration national monument, honoring all who
8 participated in these government programs in the building and
9 the significant artifacts that the workers helped to create;
10 and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that efforts to keep the current
12 seventy government employees headquartered in the old Santa Fe
13 trail building be supported; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
15 transmitted to the president of the United States, members of
16 the New Mexico congressional delegation and the director of the
17 national park service.