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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 3

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017

INTRODUCED BY

Cliff R. Pirtle and Carlos R. Cisneros

FOR THE INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO TRANSFER EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY ACRES FROM THE LINCOLN NATIONAL FOREST TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FOR THE USE AND BENEFIT OF THE MESCALERO APACHE TRIBE.

WHEREAS, Sierra Blanca is one of the four sacred mountains of the Mescalero Apache Tribe and is central to the creation beliefs of the Mescalero Apache people; and

WHEREAS, the eight hundred sixty acres contain many plants and biological materials sacred to the Mescalero Apache people; and

WHEREAS, the Mescalero Apache Tribe has operated Ski Apache on eight hundred sixty acres of United States forest service land located on Sierra Blanca pursuant to a special use permit; and

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1 WHEREAS, the Mescalero Apache Tribe, since 2011, has
2 invested more than twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) in
3 infrastructure on the land that it currently occupies pursuant
4 to the special use permit; and

5 WHEREAS, the Mescalero Apache Tribe has been
6 internationally recognized for its long-standing sustainable
7 forest management practices; and

8 WHEREAS, the tribe wishes to employ its sustainable forest
9 management practices on the eight hundred sixty acres currently
10 subject to the special use permit; and

11 WHEREAS, Ski Apache employs three hundred fifty people
12 during the ski season and contributes millions of dollars to
13 the local economy; and

14 WHEREAS, the transfer of the eight hundred sixty acres of
15 Ski Apache land from the United States forest service to the
16 United States department of the interior will not negatively
17 affect the real property tax base of either Lincoln county or
18 Otero county; and

19 WHEREAS, this transfer of land from the United States
20 forest service to the United States department of the interior
21 would not create any additional water rights or change any
22 water consumption on Ski Apache land; and

23 WHEREAS, this transfer of land from the United States
24 forest service to the United States department of the interior
25 would benefit the economies of Lincoln county, Otero county and

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1 New Mexico;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the United States congress be
4 requested to transfer eight hundred sixty acres currently used
5 by the Mescalero Apache Tribe pursuant to a special use permit
6 to the United States department of the interior for the benefit
7 of the Mescalero Apache Tribe; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
9 transmitted to members of New Mexico's congressional
10 delegation, the United States secretary of agriculture, the
11 United States secretary of the interior, the chief of the
12 United States forest service, the assistant secretary-Indian
13 affairs of the United States department of the interior and the
14 president of the Mescalero Apache Tribe.