

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING HISPANICS ENJOYING CAMPING, HUNTING, AND THE
3 OUTDOORS AND SUPPORTING A NEW MEXICO PUBLIC LANDS
4 CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP COUNCIL TO HELP ELEVATE THE VITAL
5 IMPORTANCE OF HISPANIC CULTURE, TRADITIONS AND PERSPECTIVES
6 IN STRENGTHENING THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CONSERVATION OF
7 PUBLIC LANDS AND WATERS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

8
9 WHEREAS, New Mexico is rooted in a rich and
10 multicultural history, with forty-seven percent of the
11 population having Hispanic ancestry; and

12 WHEREAS, Hispanics have a strong connection to the
13 nation's diverse landscapes and practice centuries-old
14 traditions, such as fishing, hunting, farming, ranching and
15 wood, plant and piñon nut gathering, that require the
16 protection of public lands and waters; and

17 WHEREAS, the Hispano customs of caring for and
18 cultivating the land responsibly and governing water for
19 communities through acequias are foundational to New Mexican
20 heritage; and

21 WHEREAS, many New Mexico watersheds provide critical
22 water resources to communities, including municipal, domestic
23 and agricultural users, and provide clean water to numerous
24 ancient and agriculturally and culturally significant acequia
25 systems; and

1 WHEREAS, querencia, or love for the land, is a deeply
2 held value that connects southwestern Hispanics to a past,
3 present and future sense of belonging and purpose, is a
4 principle that prioritizes conservation for future
5 generations and is a pillar of what the group Hispanics
6 enjoying camping, hunting, and the outdoors, more commonly
7 known as HECHO, is founded on; and

8 WHEREAS, HECHO was established in the southwest and was
9 founded to empower Hispanic leaders to engage their
10 communities in the conservation of public lands; and

11 WHEREAS, HECHO provides a platform for Hispanic voices
12 to be heard with respect to the protection of public lands,
13 healthy watersheds, clean air and robust wildlife habitats;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, HECHO, in working toward building a robust
16 public lands conservation leadership council in New Mexico,
17 encourages everyone to join and support this effort and
18 HECHO's mission; and

19 WHEREAS, there is a need for effective policies that
20 safeguard public lands for all; and

21 WHEREAS, Hispanos endeavor to continue to enjoy, and
22 practice and pass down, cultural traditions that depend on
23 public lands; and

24 WHEREAS, Hispanic leaders endeavor to be widely
25 recognized for contributions to public land conservation;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
2 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the
3 importance of public participation of all New Mexicans,
4 including Hispanic New Mexicans, in decisions and processes
5 concerning public lands and waters be affirmed by the
6 legislature; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature express
8 support for HECHO in the creation of a public lands
9 conservation council of Hispanic leaders to build capacity
10 and create a formalized network of Hispanic public lands
11 leaders to increase participation and representation of
12 Hispanics in such matters; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature recognize
14 the important role that HECHO fills in ensuring that Hispanic
15 Americans and Hispano cultural and traditional uses of the
16 land are included in decisions about public lands and waters;
17 and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature recognize
19 HECHO as a group that connects and unites Hispanic leaders to
20 engage their communities in the conservation of public lands
21 and waters and fosters strong, culturally rich communities
22 connected to nature and each other; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
24 transmitted to the governor, members of the New Mexico
25 congressional delegation, the commissioner of public lands,

1 the New Mexico state director of the federal bureau of land
2 management, the director of the intermountain regional office
3 of the United States national park service, the director of
4 the department of game and fish, the southwest regional
5 director of the United States fish and wildlife service and
6 the regional forester of the southwestern regional office of
7 the United States forest service. _____

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