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HOUSE MEMORIAL 44

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022

INTRODUCED BY

Luis M. Terrazas and Rebecca Dow

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LIVESTOCK BOARD, THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE TO STUDY WAYS OF RESOLVING THE PROBLEM OF FERAL AND UNBRANDED CATTLE.

WHEREAS, ranchers and farmers in southwestern New Mexico have experienced repeated trespass by feral and unbranded cattle; and

WHEREAS, feral and unbranded cattle primarily originate in the Gila wilderness and Gila national forest; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is a fence out state; and

WHEREAS, removal of feral and unbranded cattle can cause considerable uncompensated expense to the landowners even though the landowner may have appropriate fencing; and

WHEREAS, state law requires proceeds received by the New

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1 Mexico livestock board from the sale of feral and unbranded
2 cattle be returned to the livestock board; and

3 WHEREAS, the New Mexico livestock board has the authority
4 to enter into contracts, memoranda of understanding and joint
5 powers agreements with other entities; and

6 WHEREAS, the New Mexico livestock board does not gather
7 cattle on private or leased property;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
9 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico
10 livestock board, the New Mexico department of agriculture, the
11 United States forest service and others concerned be encouraged
12 to work together to resolve the issue of trespass cattle and
13 create agreements to expedite the removal of feral and
14 unbranded cattle; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
16 transmitted to the members of the New Mexico livestock board,
17 the director of the New Mexico department of agriculture, the
18 chief of the United States forest service and the forest
19 supervisor of the Gila national forest.