

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING DIDELPHIS VIRGINIANA, THE VIRGINIA OPOSSUM, AS AN
3 IMPORTANT NATIVE MARSUPIAL.

4
5 WHEREAS, the Virginia opossum, *Didelphis virginiana*, is
6 the only species of marsupial native to North America,
7 including New Mexico; and

8 WHEREAS, opossums play a vital role in New Mexico's
9 ecosystem by controlling pests, such as ticks, insects and
10 rodents; and

11 WHEREAS, these resilient animals are highly adaptable
12 and thrive in both rural and urban environments across the
13 state; and

14 WHEREAS, opossums have immune system advantages,
15 including a high resistance to venom from snakes and a
16 reduced likelihood of contracting rabies, making them a
17 unique and beneficial species;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
19 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the Virginia
20 opossum, *Didelphis virginiana*, be recognized as an important
21 part of the state's diverse wildlife and that conservation
22 awareness be encouraged, particularly as it affects this
23 unique marsupial; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
25 transmitted to the secretary of environment and to the members

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of the New Mexico house of representatives. _____