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SENATE MEMORIAL 15

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

INTRODUCED BY

Pete Campos

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING EXPANSION OF THE USE OF CITIZEN SCIENCE BY STATE AGENCIES AND REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO DECLARE A "CITIZEN SCIENCE DAY".

WHEREAS, New Mexico is a beautiful state that is rich in natural resources and filled with individuals who take great pride in the state's environment; and

WHEREAS, state agencies manage nearly fifty-three million acres of land but lack the resources to fully monitor this land; and

WHEREAS, citizen science is a collaboration among community members, state government and the scientists who manage the state's public lands in which citizens volunteer to help collect data about plants, animals, air quality and water quality; and

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1 WHEREAS, citizen science can provide valuable data while
2 fostering scientific literacy and community engagement,
3 ensuring that the state thrives through future generations of
4 environmental stewards; and

5 WHEREAS, citizen science can engage the youth, provide
6 exposure to a variety of science-based careers and expand STEM-
7 based education opportunities; and

8 WHEREAS, in the 2024 legislative session, the house of
9 representatives passed House Memorial 34, which requested
10 several state agencies to create a working group to develop
11 recommendations for expanding the use of citizen science in New
12 Mexico, and this working group prepared a report and is taking
13 steps to integrate citizen science into state agencies; and

14 WHEREAS, encouraging other state agencies to use citizen
15 science can help more people, especially the youth, to become
16 aware, involved and concerned about real world issues and help
17 time-constrained scientists to collect data; and

18 WHEREAS, establishing a "Citizen Science Day" will help
19 educate other state agencies and the public about the benefits
20 of citizen science;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
22 OF NEW MEXICO that the senate recognize the importance of
23 citizen science and its role in engaging the youth and the
24 public in science and the outdoors and assisting state agencies
25 in collecting valuable data that is otherwise difficult to

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1 collect; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to
3 declare a "Citizen Science Day" and recognize the many New
4 Mexico residents and projects that have made significant
5 contributions to citizen science across this state and many
6 more; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
8 department, the New Mexico outdoor recreation division of the
9 economic development department, the higher education
10 department and the New Mexico department of agriculture be
11 requested to review the working group report titled
12 "Recommendations to Expand the Use of Citizen Science in State
13 Agencies in New Mexico" and provide recommendations to
14 integrate citizen science, especially for the youth, into the
15 agencies; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the public education department, the New Mexico
18 outdoor recreation division of the economic development
19 department, the higher education department and the New Mexico
20 department of agriculture for appropriate distribution.