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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 45

42ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 1996

INTRODUCED BY

CARLOS R. CISNEROS

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE STATE LAND OFFICE TO CONTINUE ITS COMPREHENSIVE STUDY AND APPRAISAL REGARDING THE ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT OF UTE MOUNTAIN OR OTHER INTERESTS IN UTE MOUNTAIN IN TAOS COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, because New Mexico is the eighth fastest-growing state in the nation in terms of population and because rural New Mexico is heavily impacted by development, those unique undeveloped areas that make this the "Land of Enchantment" are few in number and threatened with extinction; and

WHEREAS, one very unique area, known as Ute mountain, located deep in northern New Mexico, has valuable ground water resources, wildlife habitat, scenic and recreational value and significant cultural and archaeological sites; and

WHEREAS, one of the most valuable natural resources at Ute

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1 mountain is the ground water, which is estimated to supply
2 twenty-five percent of the water to the Rio Grande between the
3 Colorado line and the junction with Red river; and

4 WHEREAS, the pristine and pure Ute mountain ground water
5 system is sensitive and fractured, making it very susceptible to
6 pollution from both point and nonpoint sources that could
7 further contaminate the water used by thousands of New Mexicans
8 who rely upon the Rio Grande; and

9 WHEREAS, used annually as a wintering ground by large herds
10 of deer and antelope and year round by raptors and many other
11 species, the fifteen-thousand-acre Ute mountain qualifies as a
12 true nature reserve and wilderness area with its values of
13 naturalness and solitude; and

14 WHEREAS, while both remote and wild, Ute mountain has had
15 limited but continuous human contact for several thousand years,
16 including grazing of livestock by early indigenous peoples and
17 hiking, fishing and rafting by modern people on the adjacent Rio
18 Grande; and

19 WHEREAS, the citizens of New Mexico would benefit from the
20 protection and preservation of Ute mountain in its natural
21 state;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
23 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state land office continue its
24 efforts to conduct an assessment and study of the preservation,
25 management and public ownership of Ute mountain, or an interest

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1 in Ute mountain, and coordinate its activities as necessary with
2 the property owner and any private and public sector land
3 agencies; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of New Mexico's
5 congressional delegation be requested to sponsor legislation
6 authorizing the acquisition of Ute mountain for the public
7 benefit through purchase or exchange by the bureau of land
8 management; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state land office be
10 requested to report its findings to the first session of the
11 forty-third legislature; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the commissioner of public lands and to all
14 members of New Mexico's congressional delegation.

1 FORTY- SECOND LEGI SLATURE
2 SECOND SESSI ON, 1996
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5 February 3, 1996
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7 Mr. President:
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9 Your RULES COMMI TTEE, to whom has been referred
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11 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 45
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13 has had it under consideration and reports same with
14 recommendation that it DO PASS.
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16 Respectfully submi tted,
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25 Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____
(Chi ef Clerk) (Chi ef Clerk)

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Date _____

The roll call vote was 6 For 0 Against

Yes: 6

No: 0

Excused: EJennings, Wray, Doni sthorpe

Absent: 0

SJ045RU1

State of New Mexico House of Representatives

FORTY- SECOND LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION, 1996

February 12, 1996

Mr. Speaker:

Your ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE, to
whom has been referred

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 45

has had it under consideration and reports same with
recommendation that it DO PASS.

Respectfully submitted,

James Roger Madalena, Chairman

FORTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION, 1996

HENRC/SJM 45

1 Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____
2 (Chief Clerk) (Chief Clerk)

3
4 Date _____

5
6 The roll call vote was 6 For 0 Against

7 Yes: 6

8 Excused: None

9 Absent: Light, McSorley, Picraux, Stewart, Salazar

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