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**HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 58**

**43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 1998**

**INTRODUCED BY**

**JAMES ROGER MADALENA**

**A JOINT MEMORIAL**

**SUPPORTING FEDERAL ACQUISITION OF THE BACA LOCATION NUMBER 1  
BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR SPECIAL  
MANAGEMENT BY THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE.**

**WHEREAS, the Baca location number 1, known as the Baca  
ranch, owned by the Dunigan family through the Baca land and  
cattle company, comprises over ninety-five thousand acres,  
located primarily in Sandoval county, deep in the Jemez  
mountains, and in that single-party ownership has been  
successfully and responsibly managed for over thirty years;  
and**

**WHEREAS, the Baca ranch contains the Valles Caldera, one  
of the most significant volcanic features in the world; and**

**WHEREAS, the Baca ranch boasts of scenic and natural  
beauty and diversity of wildlife and promises enormous**

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1 recreational opportunities for all people of our nation; and

2 WHEREAS, the valleys within the Caldera act as the  
3 incubator for one of the largest elk herds in the country; and

4 WHEREAS, since 1955, presidents, leaders in congress and  
5 secretaries of the interior have encouraged federal  
6 acquisition and management of the Baca ranch; and

7 WHEREAS, the owners of the Baca ranch have again offered  
8 to sell the property to the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced in congress to  
10 authorize the acquisition of the Baca ranch by the United  
11 States secretary of agriculture; and

12 WHEREAS, former secretaries of the interior Manuel Lujan  
13 and Stewart Udall lead a broad spectrum of New Mexicans in  
14 supporting the federal acquisition of the Baca ranch; and

15 WHEREAS, pueblos, including Jemez, San Ildefonso and  
16 Santa Clara, have long-standing traditional and cultural roots  
17 in the Valles Caldera and generally support the federal  
18 acquisition of the area; and

19 WHEREAS, federal acquisition of the Baca ranch coupled  
20 with congress providing for special management by the United  
21 States secretary of agriculture could result in the protection  
22 and use of this incredible land for future generations; and

23 WHEREAS, future management of the Baca ranch could  
24 accommodate hunting, fishing and limited multiple use  
25 management insofar as it preserves and protects the scenic,

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1 cultural and natural value of the lands, as well as the  
2 traditional uses by Native Americans; and

3 WHEREAS, the forest service's land management planning  
4 process would guide management of the land and provide for  
5 consultation and cooperation with units of local government,  
6 the pueblos and the general public; and

7 WHEREAS, appropriate federal management of the Baca ranch  
8 would increase federal revenues coming to the counties in  
9 which the land is located and could promote tourism and other  
10 forms of limited economic development to the overall benefit  
11 of Sandoval, Los Alamos and Rio Arriba counties;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
13 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico congressional  
14 delegation support and encourage passage of legislation  
15 authorizing the purchase by the federal government of the Baca  
16 location number 1, including the Valles Caldera; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislature  
18 request that the Baca ranch be designated upon purchase for  
19 special management as a unit of the national forest system by  
20 the United States forest service; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that after the acquisition of the  
22 land, the United States forest service be requested to  
23 initiate a process of public hearings to establish a  
24 management plan that will ensure that the Baca ranch will  
25 afford public access for hunting, fishing and other forms of

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1 recreation and that multiple use will be permitted to the  
2 extent that it is compatible with protection of the natural  
3 values of the area; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that after federal acquisition of  
5 the Baca ranch, the pueblos of Jemez, San Ildefonso, Santa  
6 Clara and other surrounding pueblos be included in discussions  
7 with the United States secretary of agriculture concerning  
8 management of the acquired land to ensure that their  
9 traditional and cultural use claims are satisfied; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
11 distributed to the president of the United States, members of  
12 the New Mexico congressional delegation, the governor of the  
13 pueblo of Jemez, the governor of the pueblo of San Ildefonso  
14 and the governor of the pueblo of Santa Clara.

1 FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

2 SECOND SESSION, 1998

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5  
6 February 11, 1998

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8 Mr. Speaker:

9  
10 Your ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE, to  
11 whom has been referred

12  
13 HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 58

14  
15 has had it under consideration and reports same with  
16 recommendation that it DO PASS, amended as follows:

17  
18 1. On page 3, line 11, insert "and" following the  
19 semicolon, and between lines 11 and 12, insert the following:

20  
21 "WHEREAS, in any such major government undertaking as this  
22 recommended land acquisition, the impact of taking private land  
23 off the tax base must be a major consideration;".

24  
25 2. On page 4, between lines 9 and 10, insert the  
following:

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4 "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government, in  
5 considering the purchase of the Baca ranch, strive to create  
6 whatever other land trades and acquisitions possible to either  
7 trade for this valuable property or, in whatever manner  
8 possible, ensure that the arrangement does not result in a net  
9 decrease in private land in the state of New Mexico, thereby  
10 reducing our tax base; and".,

11 and thence referred to the APPROPRIATIONS & FINANCE  
12 COMMITTEE.

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14 Respectfully submitted,

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18 \_\_\_\_\_  
19 James Roger Madalena, Chair man

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21 Adopted \_\_\_\_\_  
22 (Chief Clerk)

21 Not Adopted \_\_\_\_\_  
22 (Chief Clerk)

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24 Date \_\_\_\_\_  
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FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE  
SECOND SESSION, 1998

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4 The roll call vote was 6 For 2 Against

5 Yes: 6

6 No: Macko, Roberts

7 Excused: Chavez, Picraux

8 Absent: Kissner, Knowles

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