

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 9

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - 2ND SPECIAL SESSION, 2000

INTRODUCED BY

Phillip A. Griego

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING APPOINTMENT OF A LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE
THE FEDERAL GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE INVESTIGATION OF NEW
MEXICO LAND GRANT CLAIMS FLOWING FROM THE TREATY OF GUADALUPE
HIDALGO.

WHEREAS, the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed in
1848, ending the war between the United States and Mexico and
resulting in more than one hundred fifty years of troubled
history stemming from New Mexico's territorial merging with
the United States; and

WHEREAS, after the treaty was signed and in the years
that followed, Hispanic land grantees and their heirs have
lost much of the property that was rightfully theirs as part
of the community land grants recognized in the treaty of
Guadalupe Hidalgo, and that loss often seemed to stem from
inequitable adjudication of the land grants; and

WHEREAS, at the request of New Mexico's congressional

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1 delegation, the federal general accounting office will
2 conduct an investigation of the legal obligations of the
3 United States to protect the rights of the community land
4 grants and determine whether those obligations were met in
5 carrying out the provisions of the treaty of Guadalupe
6 Hidalgo, whether the community land grant claims appear to
7 have been equitably adjudicated and how the United States
8 might resolve the problems stemming from failure to protect
9 the rights of the community land grants and Hispanic land
10 grant heirs; and

11 WHEREAS, many Hispanic land grant heirs believe that
12 their rights have been violated because there has not been a
13 sufficiently vigorous adherence to the tenets and spirit of
14 the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and that this federal
15 investigation is essential to reassert and protect those
16 constitutionally inviolate rights; and

17 WHEREAS, because of the great importance of this matter
18 to New Mexico, it is necessary for the legislature to appoint
19 a committee to oversee and assist the federal general
20 accounting office in its investigation;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
22 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it request the New Mexico
23 legislative council appoint a committee to oversee and assist
24 the federal general accounting office in its investigation of
25 New Mexico land grant claims; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee consist of two
senators, two members of the house of representatives and

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1 four members appointed from a list of persons submitted by
2 the land grant forum of New Mexico; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
4 given to the speaker of the house of representatives and the
5 president pro tempore of the senate.

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