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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 45

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

INTRODUCED BY

Bengie Regensberg

A JOINT MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO
ARCHIVES CONTAINING THE REPORT OF 1856 RECORDS OF NEW MEXICO
AND SOUTHERN COLORADO LAND GRANTS AND PROVIDE A MORE COMPLETE
REPORTING ON THOSE DOCUMENTS.**

**WHEREAS, the intent and hope for the recent congressional
investigation of land grants in New Mexico and southern
Colorado was to identify all information possible about the
many grants that existed in 1856; and**

**WHEREAS, the January 24, 2001 summary report of the
federal general accounting office on land grants in New Mexico
and southern Colorado has not revealed nearly the quantity of
land grants known to exist at the time of the 1856 report; and**

**WHEREAS, foremost New Mexico historian Ralph Emerson
Twitchell stated unequivocally that selections of documents**

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1 from the archives of the Spanish and Mexican governments
2 turned over to the federal surveyor general's office by the
3 governor of New Mexico included documents related to one
4 thousand fourteen separate land grants; and

5 WHEREAS, the United States house of representatives'
6 committee on private land claims report number 457, dated
7 May 29, 1858 and accompanying House Resolution 605, also made
8 clear reference to the substantial number of documents in
9 possession of the federal surveyor general and the
10 congressional committee; and

11 WHEREAS, the initial draft of the general accounting
12 office current report lists a total of only two hundred
13 ninety-five land grants, including one hundred fifty-two
14 community grants, seventy-nine shared land grants and twenty-
15 two Indian pueblo grants; and

16 WHEREAS, thousands of families and individuals in New
17 Mexico and southern Colorado have long wanted sufficient
18 information about the land grants to clearly understand the
19 history of their ancestral properties; and

20 WHEREAS, from the initial draft of this general
21 accounting office report it appears that seven hundred
22 nineteen land grants remain unaccounted for, despite
23 historical documentation of their existence;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
25 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the United States congress, through

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1 our elected senators and representatives, be requested to
2 direct a meticulous and exhaustive search of congressional
3 archives for all documentation provided to the federal
4 surveyor general, as stated in the report of 1856; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the search and subsequent
6 report include an explanation of why a large amount of acreage
7 originally claimed was rejected from that land confirmed and
8 patented; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any documentation found of
10 the missing seven hundred nineteen land grants be made public
11 as well as the reasons why these land grants were not
12 recognized either by the federal surveyor general or the court
13 of private land claims, the supreme court or congress; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
15 sent to each member of New Mexico's congressional delegation,
16 to the office of the federal surveyor general and to the
17 congressional archives office.