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HOUSE MEMORIAL 13

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

INTRODUCED BY

Ben Lujan

A MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO MAINTAIN THE
DISTINCTIVE HISTORICAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS OF
THE PEOPLE AND LAND OF NORTHERN NEW MEXICO BY DESIGNATING IT AS
A NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.**

**WHEREAS, north central New Mexico is blessed with a
cultural and historical mosaic that begins with America's
earliest inhabitants, many of whom still live on their
ancestral lands, to Spanish settlement in 1598; and**

**WHEREAS, throughout its centuries, the contribution of
Mexican, French, German and Irish immigrants have given north
central New Mexico its vitality and uniqueness; and**

**WHEREAS, it is the celebration of cultures, languages,
folk arts, customs and architecture that makes north central**

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1 New Mexico worthy of preservation; and

2 WHEREAS, pueblo and early Spanish communities have
3 provided through their families, acequias, plantings, harvests,
4 language, folklore and cultural celebrations a distinct
5 definition to this wondrous milieu; and

6 WHEREAS, members of the broader community residing in Rio
7 Arriba, Santa Fe and Taos counties have made valuable artistic,
8 literary and commercial contributions; and

9 WHEREAS, our total "ambiente", encompassing the Rio
10 Grande, Sangre de Cristo mountains, forests, arroyos, parks,
11 pueblos, capillas, museums, monuments, crystalline skies and
12 sacred sanctuaries, has been celebrated for its unmatched
13 beauty; and

14 WHEREAS, New Mexico was honored by the United States
15 postal service with a postage stamp depicting the Espanola
16 mission convento in celebration of four hundred years of Ibero-
17 Hispanic contributions;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
19 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the United
20 States congress be requested to make every possible effort to
21 maintain and preserve the distinctive historical, social and
22 cultural characteristics of the people and land of north
23 central New Mexico by designating it as a national heritage
24 area; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

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transmitted to members of the New Mexico congressional delegation.