

A MEMORIAL

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RECOGNIZING BENJAMIN T. WAKASHIGE FOR HIS YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE  
TO NEW MEXICO.

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WHEREAS, Benjamin T. Wakashige, who has served as the state librarian for  
New Mexico since July 1998, will leave his position in May 2003 to take a position as  
the director of the library at Pacific university in Forest Grove, Oregon; and

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WHEREAS, New Mexicans will miss Benjamin T. Wakashige, his unique  
perspective, unwavering support for library issues, no-nonsense approach to library  
issues, sense of humor, candor and honesty; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin T. Wakashige demonstrated his commitment to New  
Mexico state library staff and the community alike by being a true and good public  
servant willing to address challenging and unpopular issues; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin T. Wakashige served as the supervisor of the state  
library's library for the blind and physically handicapped, worked in the development of  
community libraries in nine pueblos in New Mexico and served on library boards in  
Zuni, Rio Rancho and Silver City; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin T. Wakashige challenged the library community and  
himself to make careful and responsible decisions on diverse issues; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin T. Wakashige served as the president of the New Mexico  
library association, as director of the library at Albuquerque academy and as president  
of the New Mexico consortium of academic libraries; and

WHEREAS, without public-minded citizens like Benjamin T. Wakashige, local  
governments would be hard pressed to deliver the services that residents demand and

deserve; and

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WHEREAS, it is people like Benjamin T. Wakashige who give unselfishly of their  
time and energy, frequently at great personal sacrifice, for the benefit of the state of  
New Mexico and their communities that help make the state's libraries unique and  
valuable resources; and

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WHEREAS, Benjamin T. Wakashige's service was performed without adequate  
recognition being sought or received; and

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WHEREAS, Benjamin T. Wakashige's unceasing efforts have greatly assisted  
all communities in New Mexico and have helped bring about the fine library facilities,  
resources and quality of life that all residents of New Mexico enjoy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that its sincere gratitude and  
appreciation be expressed to Benjamin T. Wakashige for his many dedicated years of  
service to New Mexico; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be transmitted to  
Benjamin T. Wakashige.