

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO LOOK AT IMPROVING
3 MANAGEMENT OF WILD HORSE HERDS AND REQUESTING THE FEDERAL
4 GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP TOURISM PROGRAMS AT NATIONAL WILD HORSE
5 TERRITORIES AND OTHER WILD HORSE RANGES.

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7 WHEREAS, New Mexico started out with twelve national
8 wild horse territories but now has only four territories; and

9 WHEREAS, the wild horse population of New Mexico on
10 federal lands in 1973 was over six thousand, but currently
11 the total wild horse population of New Mexico on federal
12 lands is under four hundred and is targeted at two hundred
13 eighteen; and

14 WHEREAS, wild horses of Spanish colonial descent are
15 part of New Mexico's living heritage and history; and

16 WHEREAS, there are increased efforts in the state to
17 ensure the preservation of the descendants of those horses
18 who came to the new world with the conquistadores, one means
19 being DNA testing of wild horses, history and conformation;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, like the buffalo, wild horses are emblematic of
22 the old west, and it is the image of wild horses running free
23 across the plains of the west that lives in the hearts and
24 minds of Americans; and

25 WHEREAS, it was with this idea in mind that the United

1 States congress recognized that these living symbols of the
2 historic pioneer spirit of the west were fast disappearing
3 from the American scene and passed the Wild Free-Roaming
4 Horses and Burros Act of 1971 to protect wild horses; and

5 WHEREAS, the wild horse is part of New Mexico's
6 enchantment and essence and an integral part of the Indian,
7 Hispanic, ranching and farming cultures; and

8 WHEREAS, although tourism is the second-largest industry
9 in the state, the national wild horse territories in New
10 Mexico are not advertised by either the federal or state
11 government; and

12 WHEREAS, the state, in particular, is missing an
13 opportunity to draw thousands of tourists from all over the
14 world who are intrigued by the history, culture and art of
15 the American west;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
17 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the federal government be requested
18 to develop the four existing wild horse territories in New
19 Mexico and to open other national wild horse territories in
20 New Mexico where herds currently exist; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government
22 endeavor to maintain a minimum herd size of two hundred in
23 each national wild horse territory for genetic viability and
24 for tourism; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government

1 control wild horse populations by the use of contraception
2 rather than sale of excess animals; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when overpopulation does
4 exist, the federal government move the excess animals to
5 other wild horse territories, preferably in New Mexico, or
6 place them with private or state wild horse preserves after
7 DNA testing; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that helicopters not be used in
9 the state's rugged terrain to round up wild horses,
10 especially during foaling season; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government honor
12 the cultural heritage and history of New Mexico by
13 maintaining wild horse populations for the enjoyment and
14 education of New Mexico residents and other visitors to the
15 state; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the bureau of land management of the United
18 States department of the interior, the secretary of the
19 interior and the New Mexico congressional delegation. _____

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