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SENATE MEMORIAL 2

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006

INTRODUCED BY

Steve Komadina

A MEMORIAL

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

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

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

WHEREAS, wild horses of Spanish colonial descent are part  
of New Mexico's living heritage and history, but they are  
endangered and may become extinct in New Mexico; and

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1           WHEREAS, there are increased efforts in the state to  
2 ensure the preservation of the descendants of those horses who  
3 came to the new world with the conquistadores, one means being  
4 DNA testing of wild horses and removing Spanish-line horses to  
5 separate preserves; and

6           WHEREAS, like the buffalo, wild horses are emblematic of  
7 the old west, and it is the image of wild horses running free  
8 across the plains of the west that lives in the hearts and  
9 minds of Americans; and

10           WHEREAS, it was with this idea in mind that the United  
11 States congress recognized that these living symbols of the  
12 historic pioneer spirit of the west were fast disappearing  
13 from the American scene and passed the Wild Free-Roaming  
14 Horses and Burros Act of 1971 to protect wild horses; and

15           WHEREAS, the wild horse is part of New Mexico's  
16 enchantment and essence and an integral part of the Indian,  
17 Hispanic, ranching and farming cultures; and

18           WHEREAS, although tourism is the second-largest industry  
19 in the state, the national wild horse territories in New  
20 Mexico are not advertised by either the federal or state  
21 government; and

22           WHEREAS, the state, in particular, is missing an  
23 opportunity to draw thousands of tourists from all over the  
24 world who are intrigued by the history, culture and art of the  
25 American west;

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1           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
2 OF NEW MEXICO that the federal government be requested to  
3 develop the three existing wild horse territories in New  
4 Mexico and to open other national wild horse territories in  
5 New Mexico where herds currently exist; and

6           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government  
7 endeavor to maintain a minimum herd size of two hundred in  
8 each national wild horse territory for genetic viability and  
9 for tourism; and

10          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government  
11 control wild horse populations by the use of contraception  
12 rather than sale of excess animals; and

13          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when overpopulation does  
14 exist, the federal government move the excess animals to other  
15 wild horse territories, preferably in New Mexico, or place  
16 them with private or state wild horse preserves after DNA  
17 testing to determine if the horses are Spanish-line  
18 descendants; and

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

22          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government honor  
23 the cultural heritage and history of New Mexico by maintaining  
24 Spanish-line and other wild horse populations for the  
25 enjoyment and education of New Mexico residents and other

1 visitors to the state; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
3 transmitted to the bureau of land management of the United  
4 States department of the interior, the secretary of the  
5 interior and the New Mexico congressional delegation.

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