

1 A JOINT 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.

6  
7 WHEREAS, New Mexico started out with twelve national  
8 wild horse territories but now has only three territories;  
9 and

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

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

18 WHEREAS, there are increased efforts in the state to  
19 ensure the preservation of the descendants of those horses  
20 who came to the new world with the conquistadores, one means  
21 being DNA testing of wild horses and removing Spanish-line  
22 horses to separate preserves; and

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

1 minds of Americans; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 for tourism; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government  
3 control wild horse populations by the use of contraception  
4 rather than sale of excess animals; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when overpopulation does  
6 exist, the federal government move the excess animals to  
7 other wild horse territories, preferably in New Mexico, or  
8 place them with private or state wild horse preserves after  
9 DNA testing to determine if the horses are Spanish-line  
10 descendants; and

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

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government honor  
15 the cultural heritage and history of New Mexico by  
16 maintaining Spanish-line and other wild horse populations for  
17 the enjoyment and education of New Mexico residents and other  
18 visitors to the state; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
20 transmitted to the heads of the bureau of land management of  
21 the United States department of the interior and the forest  
22 service of the United States department of agriculture; the  
23 secretaries of the interior and agriculture; and the New  
24 Mexico congressional delegation. \_\_\_\_\_