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A MEMORIAL

DECLARING JANUARY 31, 2008 AS "FARM AND RANCH WORKERS' DAY"
AT THE SENATE

WHEREAS, agriculture's contribution to New Mexico's heritage and economic health is well known; and

WHEREAS, in 2005 the farm and ranch community had product sales totaling two billion six hundred million dollars (\$2,600,000,000); and

WHEREAS, major farm production in New Mexico includes cattle, sheep and wool, dairies and dairy products, alfalfa and other hays, wheat, sorghum, cotton, chile, pecans, lettuce, corn and onions; and

WHEREAS, the production of many of these products would not be possible without the approximately twelve thousand farm and ranch workers in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, farm and ranch workers in New Mexico have been tending crops and livestock for more than ninety years, when large-scale agriculture began in this state; and

WHEREAS, during this time, farm and ranch workers have been the backbone of much of the farming and ranching industries; and

WHEREAS, farm and ranch workers labor in one of the most dangerous occupations in the nation and each year one hundred twenty thousand agricultural workers suffer disabling

1 injuries from work-related accidents; and

2 WHEREAS, many farm and ranch workers earn an income that
3 is well below the poverty line; and

4 WHEREAS, farm and ranch workers receive little
5 recognition for their work; and

6 WHEREAS, all New Mexicans benefit from the labor of farm
7 and ranch workers;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that January 31, 2008 be declared "Farm
10 and Ranch Workers' Day" at the senate to honor these
11 hard-working people who play an important role in New
12 Mexico's economy. _____

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