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SENATE MEMORIAL 42

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008

INTRODUCED BY

Stuart Ingle

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE STATE PARKS DIVISION OF THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND
NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY OF
THE BLACKWATER DRAW ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE.

WHEREAS, the Blackwater Draw site near Portales in
Roosevelt county is internationally renowned and is one of the
most well-known and significant sites in North American
archaeology; and

WHEREAS, the Blackwater Draw site's importance was first
recognized in 1929 by Ridgely Whiteman of Clovis, New Mexico;
and

WHEREAS, early investigations at the Blackwater Draw site
recovered some of the first evidence of a human occupation in
association with late pleistocene fauna, including the
Columbian mammoth, the camel, the horse, the bison, the saber-

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1 toothed cat and the dire wolf; and

2 WHEREAS, since its discovery, the Blackwater Draw site has
3 been a focal point for scientific investigations by academic
4 institutions and organizations from across the nation. The
5 Carnegie institute, Smithsonian institution, academy of natural
6 sciences, national science foundation, United States national
7 museum, national geographic society and more than a dozen major
8 universities either have funded or participated in research at
9 the Blackwater Draw site; and

10 WHEREAS, the Blackwater Draw site was designated a
11 national historic landmark by the United States department of
12 the interior in 1961; and

13 WHEREAS, the Blackwater Draw site was proposed as a New
14 Mexico state park in the 1950s, but a state park was not
15 established due to opposition from the gravel mining industry
16 that controlled the site at that time; and

17 WHEREAS, the Blackwater Draw site is owned and managed by
18 eastern New Mexico university; and

19 WHEREAS, the Blackwater Draw site is located just one mile
20 from Oasis state park; and

21 WHEREAS, in 2005, the legislature of the state of New
22 Mexico authorized the expenditure of funds by the state parks
23 division of the energy, minerals and natural resources
24 department for a project to improve facilities and the
25 educational program at the Blackwater Draw site in conjunction

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1 with eastern New Mexico university; and

2 WHEREAS, in 2007, the state parks division completed a
3 very successful project in conjunction with eastern New Mexico
4 university; and

5 WHEREAS, further improvement of visitor facilities and
6 programs at the Blackwater Draw site would increase its value
7 as a tourism destination and educational location and would
8 create benefits for the region and New Mexico generally; and

9 WHEREAS, there are significant opportunities to expand the
10 collaboration and partnership between eastern New Mexico
11 university and the state parks division at the Blackwater Draw
12 site, and eastern New Mexico university desires to pursue such
13 an expanded and long-term partnership; and

14 WHEREAS, collaboration between eastern New Mexico
15 university and the state parks division at the Blackwater Draw
16 site may offer opportunities to utilize state resources more
17 efficiently while improving the management of the site;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
19 OF NEW MEXICO that the state parks division of the energy,
20 minerals and natural resources department be requested to study
21 the feasibility of a long-term partnership with eastern New
22 Mexico university at the Blackwater Draw site, and that the
23 study also analyze the designation of the site as a state park
24 as an alternative to a long-term partnership; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state parks division

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1 report its findings to the appropriate interim committee of the
2 legislature by December 1, 2008; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
4 transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural
5 resources and to the director of the state parks division of
6 the energy, minerals and natural resources department.