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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 16
49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY
Luciano "Lucky" Varela

A JOINT MEMORIAL
REQUESTING THE STATE PARKS DIVISION OF THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND
NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT TO COOPERATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT
OF GAME AND FISH TO ESTABLISH PECOS CANYON STATE PARK IN SAN
MIGUEL COUNTY.

WHEREAS, the Pecos canyon north of the village of Pecos in
San Miguel county is one of New Mexico's most scenic and
popular recreational areas; and

WHEREAS, this portion of Pecos canyon contains an
outstanding diversity of resources with statewide, and in some
cases, national, significance, including areas of scientific,
aesthetic, geologic, natural, cultural and recreational value;
and

WHEREAS, Pecos canyon provides recreational opportunities
that serve the entire state as well as visitors to New Mexico;

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1 and

2 WHEREAS, the state game commission holds title to lands in
3 Pecos canyon that have been managed by the department of game
4 and fish for protection of fish and wildlife habitat and for
5 recreation; and

6 WHEREAS, the Pecos canyon recreational use capacity
7 assessment completed by the department of game and fish in June
8 2008 concluded that the natural and cultural resources of Pecos
9 canyon would benefit from improved and enhanced management of
10 the lands owned by the state game commission; and

11 WHEREAS, the Pecos canyon recreational use capacity
12 assessment suggests that the state parks division of the
13 energy, minerals and natural resources department is better
14 suited to directly manage these state-owned lands to maximize
15 the benefits of the Pecos canyon for New Mexico residents and
16 visitors; and

17 WHEREAS, the Pecos canyon recreational use capacity
18 assessment satisfies the requirement for a state park
19 feasibility study required by Section 16-2-11 NMSA 1978; and

20 WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the residents of
21 New Mexico to designate a state park in Pecos canyon;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
23 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state parks division of the
24 energy, minerals and natural resources department be requested
25 to establish Pecos canyon state park on lands owned by the

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state game commission and other lands that the state parks
division determines to be appropriate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural
resources, the director of the department of game and fish and
the chair of the state game commission.