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HOUSE MEMORIAL 46

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011

INTRODUCED BY

Bob Wooley

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS THE INCREASING
THREAT TO LIVELIHOODS IN NEW MEXICO AND NEIGHBORING STATES FROM
WILDLANDS REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE FEDERAL ENDANGERED
SPECIES ACT OF 1973.

WHEREAS, governments, notably the federal government, are
increasingly restricting how property owners may use their
land; and

WHEREAS, this is particularly true in the western United
States, where federal laws and regulations seek to protect
endangered species, viewsheds and open space to the detriment
of ranchers, farmers and other rural property owners; and

WHEREAS, these laws and regulations fly in the face of the
basic American principle that people have "natural, inherent
and inalienable rights, among which are the rights of...

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1 acquiring, possessing and protecting property"; and

2 WHEREAS, these laws and regulations interfere with
3 ranching, farming, timber production and other uses property
4 owners should have a right to conduct on their own land; and

5 WHEREAS, often, these restrictions limit the property
6 owner's rights in order to provide some vague, ill-defined
7 benefit to society and without compensating the property owner
8 for the loss of use or the loss of revenue because of use
9 limitations; and

10 WHEREAS, federal regulations are too often developed by
11 planners who have no real-life experience in rural living, so
12 they establish regulations that make ranching, farming, timber
13 production and other uses increasingly difficult and less
14 profitable; and

15 WHEREAS, the severe adverse economic impacts of federal
16 laws and regulations, notably the Endangered Species Act of
17 1973 and wildlands regulations, are affecting not only ranchers
18 and farmers, but small businesses in rural communities that
19 support ranching and farming and tax collections for local
20 governments and the state;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
22 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the federal
23 government be requested to take steps to ensure that property
24 owners in New Mexico and neighboring states are protected from
25 ill-considered laws and regulations that restrict land use and

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1 hamper people's ability to make a living and unnecessarily and
2 adversely affect the economies of rural communities and local
3 and state governments; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government develop
5 a plan to compensate the full amount of loss to any property
6 owner, business, local government and state that has a
7 historical record of loss due to land use restrictions; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
9 transmitted to the New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, Texas and
10 Oklahoma congressional delegations and the federal secretaries
11 of the interior and commerce.