

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

SENATE MEMORIAL 43

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

INTRODUCED BY

Tim Eichenberg

A MEMORIAL

EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE SENATE FOR THE DESIGNATION OF
PROPERTY ALONG THE RIO GRANDE IN BERNALILLO COUNTY AS A
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.

WHEREAS, the United States fish and wildlife service, a
bureau within the United States department of the interior, is
studying the feasibility of establishing a national urban
wildlife refuge along the Rio Grande in Bernalillo county, just
a few miles from Albuquerque; and

WHEREAS, the proposed urban wildlife refuge would consist
of the five-hundred-seventy-acre site formerly operated as
Price's dairy and would be the only urban wildlife refuge in
the southwest; and

WHEREAS, the United States fish and wildlife service held
three public workshops during February 2011 to provide

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 information, respond to questions and listen to the community's
2 ideas, issues and concerns about the proposed urban wildlife
3 refuge; and

4 WHEREAS, overwhelming and broad-based support for the
5 establishment of an urban wildlife refuge at this location was
6 expressed by area residents who attended these public
7 workshops; and

8 WHEREAS, in addition to conserving the Rio Grande bosque
9 habitat and open space, the urban wildlife refuge would provide
10 outdoor educational opportunities for youth throughout central
11 New Mexico; and

12 WHEREAS, the preliminary vision for the site includes an
13 active place-based learning program that can accommodate school
14 groups each day; and

15 WHEREAS, according to Benjamin Tuggle, regional director
16 for the United States fish and wildlife service, "The site
17 provides outstanding habitat for neo-tropical migratory birds,
18 and other important natural resources. A national wildlife
19 refuge in this area would help us conserve these resources
20 while still allowing the public to enjoy this beautiful
21 property."; and

22 WHEREAS, the Bernalillo county commission recently
23 appropriated five million dollars (\$5,000,000) to support the
24 project in the event that it is federally approved, a local
25 contribution that will sunset in September 2012 should this

.185438.1

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 wildlife refuge not be established by that time; and

2 WHEREAS, Bernalillo county commissioner Art de la Cruz
3 stated, "The south valley has some of the most threatened open
4 space properties that could easily be bought out by developers
5 if we don't protect and preserve these precious gems within our
6 community."; and

7 WHEREAS, United States Senator Jeff Bingaman, United
8 States Senator Tom Udall and Congressman Martin Heinrich wrote
9 a letter to Ken Salazar, secretary of the United States
10 department of the interior, requesting that the property
11 formerly operated as Price's dairy in Albuquerque be added to
12 the national wildlife refuge system and thanking the secretary
13 for his continued support for protecting natural resources in
14 New Mexico; and

15 WHEREAS, it is the mission of the United States fish and
16 wildlife service to work with others to conserve, protect and
17 enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the
18 continuing benefit of the American people; and

19 WHEREAS, establishing this area as a national wildlife
20 refuge will preserve the natural flyway of birds migrating from
21 Canada to the southern United States; and

22 WHEREAS, migratory birds will appreciate the habitat, as
23 will residents of New Mexico, who will use the open space for
24 generations to come;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE

.185438.1

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 OF NEW MEXICO that support be expressed for the designation of
2 property along the Rio Grande in Bernalillo county as a
3 national wildlife refuge; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
5 transmitted to the director of the United States fish and
6 wildlife service and the members of the New Mexico
7 congressional delegation.

8 - 4 -
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25