

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 43

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

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING RETURN TO THE PEOPLE OF NEW MEXICO THE ARTIFACTS  
TAKEN FROM CHACO CANYON DURING THE HYDE EXPLORING EXPEDITION IN  
THE YEARS 1896 THROUGH 1900, LED BY GEORGE H. PEPPER OF THE  
AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY IN NEW YORK CITY.

WHEREAS, the main focus of the Hyde exploring expedition  
was the accumulation of artifacts from Chaco canyon for the  
collection at the American museum of natural history in New  
York City; and

WHEREAS, by the end of the nineteenth century, private  
collectors' removal of artifacts from Chaco canyon caused  
serious concerns about protecting historic ruins and artifacts;  
and

WHEREAS, the removal of artifacts from Chaco canyon  
prompted the passage of the Federal Antiquities Act of 1906

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1 that protected antiquities from removal by private collectors;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, the accomplishments of the ancient people of  
4 Chaco canyon are part of the history and traditions of the  
5 modern-day Pueblos of New Mexico, the Hopi of Arizona and the  
6 Navajo; and

7 WHEREAS, the descendants of the people who built the  
8 cultural phenomenon centered in Chaco canyon are members of  
9 twenty Indian tribes in New Mexico and Arizona; and

10 WHEREAS, the people of New Mexico take great pride in the  
11 long and rich history and traditions of the Indian tribes in  
12 this state; and

13 WHEREAS, for the benefit of both residents and visitors of  
14 the state, the Chaco Culture museum at the Chaco Culture  
15 national historical park is the most appropriate site for  
16 display and scientific research of the artifacts;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
18 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the national park service be requested  
19 to work to restore the artifacts taken from Chaco canyon by the  
20 Hyde exploring expedition for permanent display and scientific  
21 research at the Chaco Culture museum at the Chaco Culture  
22 national historical park; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
24 transmitted to the national park service, the Chaco Culture  
25 museum at the Chaco Culture national historical park and the

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members of the New Mexico congressional delegation.