

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 50

2 **50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 George K. Munoz

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING COOPERATION AND SUPPORT FOR THE EFFORTS OF THE
12 DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH TO ESTABLISH A CONSERVATION AND
13 CULTURE ACADEMY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF TRADITIONAL CULTURES,
14 WATERSHEDS AND ACTIVITIES.

15
16 WHEREAS, the culture and traditions of New Mexico are
17 founded upon and dependent on the viability and health of the
18 land and its precious watersheds; and

19 WHEREAS, the natural resources that sustain us, and that
20 sustained our forebears, we hold in trust for our children and
21 their children; and

22 WHEREAS, healthy, intact tracts of publicly accessible
23 land where our children can practice traditional land uses such
24 as agriculture, hunting and fishing are essential to the
25 continuation of traditional culture; and

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1 WHEREAS, the resources of New Mexico, both physical and
2 cultural, must have champions in the next generation to ensure
3 that they do not perish; and

4 WHEREAS, beneficial use of renewable wildlife resources is
5 essential to the long-term economy of New Mexico; and

6 WHEREAS, fishing is an integral part of the fabric of New
7 Mexico's economy and heritage, and fishing is an important
8 cultural and traditional activity for all New Mexicans; and

9 WHEREAS, the New Mexico conservation and culture academy
10 will be established as a four- to six-week summer session for
11 students in the tenth through twelfth grades and will be held
12 on working ranches that have ongoing Rio Grande cutthroat trout
13 restoration initiatives; and

14 WHEREAS, the Rio Grande cutthroat trout, being the New
15 Mexico state fish and a candidate for an endangered species
16 listing, is a classic western icon that has survived in the
17 face of extreme adversity and is a barometer of watershed
18 health; and

19 WHEREAS, like the cultures that rely on the same
20 watersheds it still inhabits, the Rio Grande cutthroat trout is
21 a symbol of diversity and uniqueness in an increasingly
22 homogeneous world; and

23 WHEREAS, the Rio Grande cutthroat trout's habitat is an
24 ideal watershed-centric laboratory that fuses traditional
25 cultural land use, watershed/native species protection and

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1 habitat restoration into one easy-to-manage conservation and
2 culture curriculum package; and

3 WHEREAS, the best and brightest conservation-minded kids
4 from all corners of the state will be recruited for the
5 academy, acting as the conservation and culture ambassadors
6 from their respective regions;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
8 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the director of the department of game
9 and fish name a youth conservation and culture education
10 advisory group, consisting of a representative from the United
11 States fish and wildlife service, a representative from the
12 United States forest service, a representative from the bureau
13 of land management, a representative from the Valles Caldera
14 national preserve, a representative from the New Mexico
15 agricultural community, a representative from the state council
16 of trout unlimited, a representative from the department of
17 game and fish and three representatives of traditional cultures
18 in New Mexico; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the advisory group be
20 requested to develop curricula and establish a conservation and
21 culture academy for the preservation of traditional cultures,
22 watersheds and activities; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of game and
24 fish study the feasibility of creating and managing a dedicated
25 youth conservation and culture education fund; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the regional forester of the United States forest service, the state director of the United States fish and wildlife service, the bureau of land management, the New Mexico state council of trout unlimited and the director of the department of game and fish.