

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 127

2 **54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Carlos R. Cisneros

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10 A MEMORIAL

11 RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CARSON NATIONAL FOREST'S
12 SELECTION TO PROVIDE THE 2019 UNITED STATES CAPITOL CHRISTMAS
13 TREE AND URGING NEW MEXICO LEGISLATORS TO ATTEND THE
14 FESTIVITIES RELATED TO LIGHTING THE CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE ON
15 THE WHITE HOUSE WEST LAWN.

16
17 WHEREAS, the tradition of the United States capitol
18 Christmas tree, or "the people's tree", began in 1964 when the
19 speaker of the United States house of representatives John W.
20 McCormack placed a live Christmas tree on the capitol lawn,
21 which lived for three years before succumbing to wind and root
22 damage; and

23 WHEREAS, since 1970, a different national forest has been
24 chosen to provide the United States capitol Christmas tree; and

25 WHEREAS, for 2019, the Questa ranger district of the

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1 Carson national forest has been chosen to select a seventy-five
2 foot tall evergreen tree to decorate the United States
3 capitol's west lawn during the first week of December; and

4 WHEREAS, the tree, a gift from New Mexico, will remain lit
5 through January 2, 2020; and

6 WHEREAS, once cut in early November, the tree will be
7 exhibited in a number of New Mexico communities before a
8 cross-country journey to Washington, D.C., making stops for
9 special events in communities along the way; and

10 WHEREAS, ten thousand handmade ornaments made in New
11 Mexico will decorate the tree and an additional seventy
12 companion trees for offices throughout Washington, D.C.; and

13 WHEREAS, projects to make ornaments are ongoing and
14 legislators and residents of counties, tribal governments,
15 municipalities and schools are encouraged to participate in
16 ornament making; and

17 WHEREAS, a free trip to Washington, D.C. will be awarded
18 to a New Mexico student in a youth writing contest, with the
19 winner selected by the governor; and

20 WHEREAS, the theme of a tree "delivering enchantment"
21 represents the rich traditional culture and the diversity of
22 communities in New Mexico; and

23 WHEREAS, "delivering enchantment" highlights the
24 importance of healthy forests in New Mexico that provide
25 recreational opportunities, economic value from many ski

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1 industries and a vital water source to the farming communities
2 and cities along the Rio Grande;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
4 OF NEW MEXICO that the importance of the Carson national forest
5 being chosen to provide the 2019 United States capitol
6 Christmas tree be recognized; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that legislators and residents of
8 counties, tribal governments, municipalities and schools are
9 encouraged to participate in ornament making; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that New Mexico legislators are
11 urged to attend the festivities related to the tree lighting of
12 the United States capitol Christmas tree on the White House
13 west lawn; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
15 transmitted to the governor, the executive director of New
16 Mexico counties, the secretary of public education, New
17 Mexico's twenty-three Indian nations, tribes and pueblos, the
18 chief of the United States forest service and the forest
19 supervisor of the Carson national forest.