

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING FEBRUARY 15, 2023 "CHILE DAY" IN THE SENATE.

3
4 WHEREAS, for hundreds of years, New Mexicans have
5 perfected the art of growing delicious chiles from
6 New Mexico's rocky, rugged soil; and

7 WHEREAS, New Mexico chile has an unparalleled,
8 world-famous flavor that cannot be found anywhere else; and

9 WHEREAS, Hatch is considered the chile capital of the
10 world, and the largest chile processor is located in Deming;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, the chile pepper institute at New Mexico state
13 university is the only international organization dedicated
14 to the education, research and archiving of information
15 related to chile; and

16 WHEREAS, horticulturist Dr. Fabian Garcia developed
17 "New Mexico 9", the first New Mexico variety chile; and

18 WHEREAS, New Mexico state university has developed
19 numerous chile varieties, including Sandia, New Mexico 6-4,
20 NuMex big Jim, NuMex Joe E. Parker and NuMex odyssey; and

21 WHEREAS, New Mexico leads the nation in chile
22 production, with fifty-one thousand tons of chile produced in
23 2021, of which forty-six thousand five hundred tons were
24 green chile and four thousand five hundred tons were red
25 chile; and

1 WHEREAS, ninety-one percent of chile grown in New Mexico
2 goes to processors for value-added products such as powders,
3 salsas and sauces, with nine percent sold on the fresh
4 market; and

5 WHEREAS, the importance that the chile industry has on
6 New Mexico's economy is significant, providing more than five
7 thousand jobs and contributing more than four hundred fifty
8 million dollars (\$450,000,000) to the state's economy,
9 according to the New Mexico chile association; and

10 WHEREAS, New Mexicans immortalize chile at every
11 opportunity; and

12 WHEREAS, the legislature adopted chile and pinto beans
13 both as New Mexico's state vegetables, the argument being
14 that the two vegetables were inseparable when served; and

15 WHEREAS, the legislature also passed a house joint
16 memorial declaring "Red or green?" as the official state
17 question, referring to the question of whether a person
18 prefers red or green chile when ordering New Mexican cuisine;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, making such a difficult choice has many people
21 ordering "Christmas", both red and green chile, the best of
22 both worlds; and

23 WHEREAS, during this legislative session, lawmakers are
24 even considering Senate Bill 188, the adoption of "the aroma
25 of green chile roasting in the fall" as "the official aroma

1 of New Mexico"; and

2 WHEREAS, adding to chile's allure, New Mexico state
3 university developed NuMex "Espanola improved", which was
4 grown on the space station and is the longest space plant
5 experiment in history; and

6 WHEREAS, New Mexicans and connoisseurs around the world
7 know: chile is not just food, it is tradition;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 15, 2023 be declared "Chile
10 Day" in the senate; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chile industry be
12 recognized for the industry's contributions to New Mexico's
13 economy and taste buds; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
15 transmitted to the executive director of the New Mexico chile
16 association and the secretary of tourism. _____

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