

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING THE IMPACT OF THE HERMIT'S PEAK/CALF CANYON FIRE
3 ON THE RESIDENTS AND COMMUNITIES OF NORTHEASTERN NEW MEXICO.
4

5 WHEREAS, on April 6, 2022, the United States forest
6 service lost control of a prescribed burn due to windy
7 conditions, resulting in the Hermit's Peak fire; and

8 WHEREAS, on April 9, 2022, an improperly extinguished
9 pile burn that the United States forest service had lit in
10 January rekindled, resulting in the Calf Canyon fire; and

11 WHEREAS, on April 22, 2022, the Hermit's Peak fire and
12 the Calf Canyon fire merged; and

13 WHEREAS, the merged Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon fire grew
14 to become the most destructive fire in New Mexico history,
15 surpassing the 2012 Whitewater-Baldy complex fire; and

16 WHEREAS, the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon fire burned three
17 hundred forty-one thousand four hundred seventy-one acres;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, April 6, 2025 will mark three years since the
20 start of the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon fire; and

21 WHEREAS, as of April 6, 2025, the federal emergency
22 management agency will still be working to compensate losses
23 across northeastern New Mexico; and

24 WHEREAS, as of January 2025, the federal emergency
25 management agency had only paid out approximately one billion

1 eight hundred million dollars (\$1,800,000,000) in claims of
2 the five billion four hundred fifty million dollars
3 (\$5,450,000,000) allocated for claims by the United States
4 government; and

5 WHEREAS, many claimants from the Hermit's Peak/Calf
6 Canyon fire burn scar, including many who have suffered the
7 total losses of homes, ranches or businesses, are still
8 waiting for compensation; and

9 WHEREAS, many residents and communities within the burn
10 scar are dealing with subsequent and unprecedented cascading
11 effects, including severe flooding, emotional trauma and loss
12 of employment; and

13 WHEREAS, many local groups and individuals have
14 dedicated efforts to supporting the recovery of the region,
15 including Janna Lopez of neighbors helping neighbors fire
16 relief and Yolanda Cruz, who administers the Hermit's
17 Peak/Calf Canyon fire recovery page on facebook; and

18 WHEREAS, the residents and communities of northeastern
19 New Mexico continue to struggle with the losses of their
20 homes, ranches, businesses, forests and recreation areas as
21 well as displacement, emotional trauma and the loss of
22 cultural identity and traditions; and

23 WHEREAS, the New Mexico congressional delegation,
24 including Representative Teresa Leger Fernandez, Senator
25 Martin Heinrich and Senator Ben Ray Luján, have addressed the

1 federal emergency management agency with constituents'
2 concerns;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
4 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the Hermit's
5 Peak/Calf Canyon fire be recognized as the most destructive
6 fire in New Mexico history; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon
8 fire claimants are entitled to full compensation from the
9 federal government for the claimants' losses and require
10 resources and legislation to address cascading effects and
11 prevent disastrous fires in the future; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the governor, the New Mexico congressional
14 delegation and the director of the federal emergency
15 management agency's Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon fire claims
16 office.
