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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 39

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 1998

INTRODUCED BY

CARLOS R. CISNEROS

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH TO SET ASIDE TWO  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP HUNTING LICENSES PER YEAR FOR THE  
PUEBLO OF PICURIS SO THAT THE PUEBLO CAN CONTINUE ITS  
TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES.

WHEREAS, the ancestors of the members of the pueblo of  
Picuris hunted bighorn sheep for many centuries in the area  
now designated as the Pecos wilderness; and

WHEREAS, the Rocky mountain bighorn sheep remained  
plentiful until domestic sheep diseases and overhunting by  
game hunters depleted the herds to extinction; and

WHEREAS, the Rocky mountain bighorn sheep has been a  
sacred animal to the Picuris people and holds great spiritual  
significance for them; and

WHEREAS, the people of the pueblo of Picuris annually

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1 honor the Rocky mountain bighorn sheep and other animals of  
2 mother earth by performing the bighorn sheep dance; and

3 WHEREAS, out-of-state game hunters vie with New Mexicans  
4 for the expensive licenses to hunt Rocky mountain bighorn  
5 sheep; and

6 WHEREAS, federal case law permits Indian tribes to hunt  
7 without fee or license in areas that were the traditional  
8 hunting grounds of the tribe, but the pueblo chooses to work  
9 out an equitable arrangement with the state; and

10 WHEREAS, the population of Rocky mountain bighorn sheep  
11 is increasing, and the department of game and fish has  
12 increased the number of licenses to be made available for the  
13 1998 hunt in the Pecos wilderness from five to eight; and

14 WHEREAS, providing a solution to the request of the  
15 pueblo of Picuris at this time would not result in lost  
16 revenue to the state from license fees already being realized;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, disease and overhunting also eliminated a herd  
19 of Rocky mountain bighorn sheep in White Rock canyon, and now  
20 the department of game and fish and the pueblo of San  
21 Ildefonso are working together to develop a new herd in that  
22 canyon; and

23 WHEREAS, now would be a good time to develop through  
24 government-to-government negotiations between the pueblo of  
25 Picuris and the department of game and fish a process that

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1 would allow the pueblo of Picuris to again hunt in their  
2 traditional hunting grounds in the Pecos wilderness;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
4 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it request the department of game and  
5 fish to enter into negotiations with representatives of the  
6 pueblo of Picuris and come to an agreement on how to satisfy  
7 the traditional needs of that pueblo for Rocky mountain  
8 bighorn sheep before licenses are issued for the 1998 Rocky  
9 Mountain bighorn sheep hunt; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
11 distributed to the governor of New Mexico, the governor of the  
12 pueblo of Picuris, the director of the department of game and  
13 fish and the chairman of the state game commission.

1 FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

2 SECOND SESSION, 1998

3  
4  
5 February 14, 1998

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7 Mr. President:

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9 Your RULES COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred

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11 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 39

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13 has had it under consideration and reports same with  
14 recommendation that it DO NOT PASS, but that

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16 SENATE RULES COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

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18 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 39

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20 DO PASS, and thence referred to the CONSERVATION  
21 COMMITTEE.

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23 Respectfully submitted,

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Gloria Howes, Chairman

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Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ Not Adopted \_\_\_\_\_  
(Chief Clerk) (Chief Clerk)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

The roll call vote was 5 For 0 Against

Yes: 5

No: 0

Excused: Adair, Aragon, Gorham

Absent: None

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SENATE RULES COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 39

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 1998

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH TO ENTER INTO  
GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PUEBLO OF  
PICURIS TO DEVELOP A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY PROCESS TO ALLOW  
CEREMONIAL HARVESTS FOR ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP SO THAT  
THE PUEBLO CAN CONTINUE ITS TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES.

WHEREAS, the ancestors of the members of the pueblo of  
Picuris have harvested bighorn sheep for many centuries in the  
area now designated as the Pecos wilderness; and

WHEREAS, the Rocky mountain bighorn sheep remained  
plentiful until domestic sheep diseases and overhunting by  
game hunters depleted the herds in the ancestral lands of the  
pueblo of Picuris; and

WHEREAS, the Rocky mountain bighorn sheep has been a  
sacred animal to the Picuris people and holds great spiritual

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significance for them; and

WHEREAS, the people of the pueblo of Picuris annually honor the Rocky mountain bighorn sheep and other animals of mother earth by performing the bighorn sheep dance; and

WHEREAS, the population of Rocky mountain bighorn sheep in the Pecos wilderness is increasing; and

WHEREAS, now would be a good time to develop through government-to-government negotiations between the pueblo of Picuris and the department of game and fish a process that would allow the pueblo of Picuris to again harvest Rocky mountain bighorn sheep in their ancestral lands in the Pecos wilderness;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of game and fish be requested to continue discussions with representatives of the pueblo of Picuris and develop potential solutions to satisfy the traditional spiritual and cultural practices of the people of the pueblo; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of game and fish report to the interim Indian affairs committee prior to November 1, 1998 on the progress of the discussions with the pueblo of Picuris and any solutions identified that could be implemented to satisfy the spiritual and cultural needs of the pueblo; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be distributed to the governor of New Mexico, the governor of the pueblo of Picuris, the director of the department of game and fish and the chairman of the state game commission.

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**SRC/SJM 39**

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1 FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

2 SECOND SESSION, 1998

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4  
5 February 16, 1998

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7 Mr. President:

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9 Your CONSERVATION COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred

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11 SENATE RULES COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

12 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 39

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14 has had it under consideration and reports same with  
15 recommendation that it DO PASS.

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17 Respectfully submitted,

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24 Michael S. Sanchez, Chairman

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SRC/SJM 39

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Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ Not

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_

(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

The roll call vote was 6 For 0 Against

Yes: 6

No: None

Excused: Davis, Kysar, Macias, Payne

Absent: None

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