A MEMORIAL
REQUESTING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO LOOK AT IMPROVING
MANAGEMENT OF WILD HORSE HERDS AND REQUESTING THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP TOURISM PROGRAMS AT NATIONAL WILD HORSE
TERRITORIES AND OTHER WILD HORSE RANGES.

WHEREAS, New Mexico started out with twelve national
wild horse territories but now has only four territories; and
WHEREAS, the wild horse population of New Mexico on
federal lands in 1973 was over six thousand, but currently
the total wild horse population of New Mexico on federal
lands is under four hundred and is targeted at two hundred
eighteen; and
WHEREAS, wild horses of Spanish colonial descent are
part of New Mexico's living heritage and history; and
WHEREAS, there are increased efforts in the state to
ensure the preservation of the descendants of those horses
who came to the new world with the conquistadores, one means
being DNA testing of wild horses, history and conformation;
and
WHEREAS, like the buffalo, wild horses are emblematic of
the old west, and it is the image of wild horses running free
across the plains of the west that lives in the hearts and
minds of Americans; and
WHEREAS, it was with this idea in mind that the United
States congress recognized that these living symbols of the
historic pioneer spirit of the west were fast disappearing
from the American scene and passed the Wild Free-Roaming
Horses and Burros Act of 1971 to protect wild horses; and
WHEREAS, the wild horse is part of New Mexico's
enchantment and essence and an integral part of the Indian,
Hispanic, ranching and farming cultures; and
WHEREAS, although tourism is the second-largest industry in the state, the national wild horse territories in New Mexico are not advertised by either the federal or state government; and

WHEREAS, the state, in particular, is missing an opportunity to draw thousands of tourists from all over the world who are intrigued by the history, culture and art of the American west;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the federal government be requested to develop the four existing wild horse territories in New Mexico and to open other national wild horse territories in New Mexico where herds currently exist; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government endeavor to maintain a minimum herd size of two hundred in each national wild horse territory for genetic viability and for tourism; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government control wild horse populations by the use of contraception rather than sale of excess animals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when overpopulation does exist, the federal government move the excess animals to other wild horse territories, preferably in New Mexico, or place them with private or state wild horse preserves after DNA testing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that helicopters not be used in the state's rugged terrain to round up wild horses, especially during foaling season; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government honor the cultural heritage and history of New Mexico by maintaining wild horse populations for the enjoyment and education of New Mexico residents and other visitors to the
state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
transmitted to the bureau of land management of the United
States department of the interior, the secretary of the
interior and the New Mexico congressional delegation.