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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

1           WHEREAS, although tourism is the second-largest industry  
2 in the state, the national wild horse territories in New  
3 Mexico are not advertised by either the federal or state  
4 government; and

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

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

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

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

21           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when overpopulation does  
22 exist, the federal government move the excess animals to  
23 other wild horse territories, preferably in New Mexico, or  
24 place them with private or state wild horse preserves after  
25 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

1 state; and

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

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