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HOUSE MEMORIAL 37

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018

INTRODUCED BY

Angelica Rubio and Joanne J. Ferrary

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE ROLE OF NEW MEXICANS IN PROTECTING AND
PRESERVING THE LAND, WATER AND WILDLIFE OF THE UNITED STATES
AND, IN PARTICULAR, NEW MEXICO, ENCOURAGING THE MEANINGFUL
ENGAGEMENT OF HISPANIC PEOPLE AND ALL NEW MEXICANS IN
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION EFFORTS AND
ENCOURAGING THE PARTICIPATION OF HISPANIC NEW MEXICANS IN
ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS THAT ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY IN THE
OUTDOORS AND BRING AWARENESS TO THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSERVATION.

WHEREAS, Hispanic people have lived in New Mexico since
the sixteenth century; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic people remain the largest single ethnic
group in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, since the sixteenth century, Hispanic people have
demonstrated a love for and engagement with New Mexico's

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1 natural environment, protecting its farmlands, natural expanses
2 and urban areas from fire, flood and depletion while conserving
3 its precious water resources; and

4 WHEREAS, despite their numbers and longstanding roles as
5 stewards of New Mexico's land, Hispanic people are
6 underrepresented among the institutions and entities that
7 manage New Mexico's public lands; and

8 WHEREAS, Hispanic people deserve a much greater role in
9 the decision-making process relating to public lands; and

10 WHEREAS, Hispanic conservation initiatives break down
11 barriers, improve access to public lands and encourage outreach
12 to, and new opportunities for, the Hispanic community to enjoy
13 public lands; and

14 WHEREAS, increased access to outdoor recreational
15 opportunities for Hispanic families and youth fosters an
16 appreciation of the outdoors, as well as a commitment within
17 the Hispanic community to conservation; and

18 WHEREAS, access to green spaces promotes healthy and
19 active lifestyles, which in turn helps to address numerous
20 health disparities that disproportionately affect the Hispanic
21 community, including conditions such as diabetes, obesity and
22 cardiovascular disease; and

23 WHEREAS, the participation of and exposure of Hispanic
24 people in conservation efforts can encourage an interest and
25 involvement among Hispanic people in careers in conservation;

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1 and

2 WHEREAS, each person should have the opportunity to
3 discover his or her history, culture and heritage by exploring
4 and experiencing New Mexico's public lands; and

5 WHEREAS, the people of New Mexico, including people of all
6 backgrounds, must ensure that New Mexico's public lands and
7 natural environment are protected and equally accessible for
8 future generations of all backgrounds; and

9 WHEREAS, as the largest ethnic group in New Mexico,
10 Hispanic people will have a significant role in the future
11 success and preservation of New Mexico's public lands,
12 especially as the Hispanic population continues to grow;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
14 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the role of
15 Hispanic people in protecting and preserving the land, water
16 and wildlife of the United States and, in particular, New
17 Mexico, be recognized; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the inclusion and meaningful
19 engagement of Hispanic people and all New Mexicans in
20 environmental protection and conservation efforts be
21 encouraged; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hispanic New Mexicans be
23 encouraged to participate in activities and programs that
24 engage the community in the outdoors and bring awareness to the
25 importance of conservation; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the governor, the commissioner of public lands, the secretary of environment, the secretary of energy, minerals and natural resources, the secretary of public education and the secretary of cultural affairs.