

1 A MEMORIAL

2 EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE SENATE FOR THE DESIGNATION OF
3 PROPERTY ALONG THE RIO GRANDE IN BERNALILLO COUNTY AS A
4 NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.

5
6 WHEREAS, the United States fish and wildlife service, a
7 bureau within the United States department of the interior,
8 is studying the feasibility of establishing a national urban
9 wildlife refuge along the Rio Grande in Bernalillo county,
10 just a few miles from Albuquerque; and

11 WHEREAS, the proposed urban wildlife refuge would
12 consist of the five-hundred-seventy-acre site formerly
13 operated as Price's dairy and would be the only urban
14 wildlife refuge in the southwest; and

15 WHEREAS, the United States fish and wildlife service
16 held three public workshops during February 2011 to provide
17 information, respond to questions and listen to the
18 community's ideas, issues and concerns about the proposed
19 urban wildlife refuge; and

20 WHEREAS, overwhelming and broad-based support for the
21 establishment of an urban wildlife refuge at this location
22 was expressed by area residents who attended these public
23 workshops; and

24 WHEREAS, in addition to conserving the Rio Grande bosque
25 habitat and open space, the urban wildlife refuge would

1 provide outdoor educational opportunities for youth
2 throughout central New Mexico; and

3 WHEREAS, the preliminary vision for the site includes an
4 active place-based learning program that can accommodate
5 school groups each day; and

6 WHEREAS, according to Benjamin Tuggle, regional director
7 for the United States fish and wildlife service, "The site
8 provides outstanding habitat for neo-tropical migratory
9 birds, and other important natural resources. A national
10 wildlife refuge in this area would help us conserve these
11 resources while still allowing the public to enjoy this
12 beautiful property."; and

13 WHEREAS, the Bernalillo county commission recently
14 appropriated five million dollars (\$5,000,000) to support the
15 project in the event that it is federally approved, a local
16 contribution that will sunset in September 2012 should this
17 wildlife refuge not be established by that time; and

18 WHEREAS, Bernalillo county commissioner Art de la Cruz
19 stated, "The south valley has some of the most threatened
20 open space properties that could easily be bought out by
21 developers if we don't protect and preserve these precious
22 gems within our community."; and

23 WHEREAS, United States Senator Jeff Bingaman, United
24 States Senator Tom Udall and Congressman Martin Heinrich
25 wrote a letter to Ken Salazar, secretary of the United States

1 department of the interior, requesting that the property
2 formerly operated as Price's dairy in Albuquerque be added to
3 the national wildlife refuge system and thanking the
4 secretary for his continued support for protecting natural
5 resources in New Mexico; and

6 WHEREAS, it is the mission of the United States fish and
7 wildlife service to work with others to conserve, protect and
8 enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the
9 continuing benefit of the American people; and

10 WHEREAS, establishing this area as a national wildlife
11 refuge will preserve the natural flyway of birds migrating
12 from Canada to the southern United States; and

13 WHEREAS, migratory birds will appreciate the habitat, as
14 will residents of New Mexico, who will use the open space for
15 generations to come;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
17 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that support be expressed for the
18 designation of property along the Rio Grande in Bernalillo
19 county as a national wildlife refuge; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
21 transmitted to the director of the United States fish and
22 wildlife service and the members of the New Mexico
23 congressional delegation. _____