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SENATE MEMORIAL 62

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023

INTRODUCED BY

Joseph Cervantes

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING TED TURNER AND THE TURNER FOUNDATION FOR THEIR
VISION, GENEROSITY AND STEWARDSHIP OF NEW MEXICO'S LANDS AND
WILDLIFE.

WHEREAS, New Mexico's Ted Turner is the state's largest
private landowner, owning more than one million one hundred
thousand acres in the state; and

WHEREAS, Ted Turner has acquired sixteen ranches in six
western states totaling one million eighty-five thousand acres;
and

WHEREAS, Ted Turner has converted his historic ranches
into nature reserves and opened his New Mexico properties to
the public because he wishes to share his love of nature and
discovery; and

WHEREAS, Ted Turner's appreciation for nature runs deep,

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1 compelling him to work tirelessly, giving millions of dollars
2 through his charitable foundations to improve air and water
3 quality, develop a sustainable energy future to protect the
4 climate, safeguard environmental health and protect wildlife
5 and habitats to maintain biodiversity; and

6 WHEREAS, Ted Turner's many titles are as diverse and
7 impressive as his renowned legacy itself: founder of a cable
8 news network, professional sports team owner, sailing champion,
9 restaurateur, philanthropist and conservationist, just to name
10 a few; and

11 WHEREAS, Ted Turner's reserves collaborate with the
12 important environmental preservation and wildlife restoration
13 projects funded by the Turner foundation and the Turner
14 endangered species fund; and

15 WHEREAS, Vermejo reserve is located in northern New Mexico
16 and features snowcapped alpine tundra, nineteen fishable lakes
17 and more than five hundred fifty thousand stunning acres of
18 picturesque lands; and

19 WHEREAS, Sierra Grande lodge and spa, in Truth or
20 Consequences, is a serene hotel resting on mineral-rich
21 geothermal springs where the legendary healing traditions first
22 established by the region's Native Americans are honored; and

23 WHEREAS, Ladder ranch, nestled in a natural oasis situated
24 by four Rio Grande tributaries, is located at Caballo and
25 surrounded by sweeping landscapes; and

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1 WHEREAS, Armendaris ranch, located in south central New
2 Mexico, embraces three hundred sixty thousand acres located in
3 the Chihuahuan desert; and

4 WHEREAS, the Turner ranches strive to balance ranching
5 commerce with conservation, and with the preservation of land
6 and native species; and

7 WHEREAS, Ted Turner has also committed himself and his
8 resources to restoration of the bison populations in the
9 Americas; and

10 WHEREAS, the Turner herd of American bison now totals over
11 fifty thousand head and is the largest private bison herd in
12 the world; and

13 WHEREAS, Ted Turner has worked to restore populations of
14 endangered species such as the Boston tortoise, Chiricahua
15 leopard frog, Rio Grande cutthroat trout, bighorn sheep,
16 Mexican grey wolf and others on his New Mexico properties; and

17 WHEREAS, sustainable tourism best practices are upheld
18 throughout the Turner properties; and

19 WHEREAS, Ted Turner hopes that those visiting his
20 properties will develop a deeper appreciation for, and
21 awareness of, what the earth has to offer and, just as
22 importantly, a shared responsibility for the well-being of the
23 environment; and

24 WHEREAS, since the branding of Ted Turner reserves in
25 2019, this hospitality organization has contributed more than

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1 two million eight hundred thousand dollars (\$2,800,000) in tax
2 revenues to the state; and

3 WHEREAS, the Turner foundation welcomes numerous student
4 groups from across the state to the reserves to engage with
5 biologists and guides for hands-on learning opportunities; and

6 WHEREAS, the Turner foundation has contributed nearly one
7 million two hundred thousand dollars (\$1,200,000) in grants to
8 various youth, conservation and education organizations in New
9 Mexico; and

10 WHEREAS, the Turner foundation will continue to reinvest
11 in the area by developing Ted Turner reserves' infrastructure
12 within New Mexico, such as a recent central reservations office
13 that supports all of the guest properties; and

14 WHEREAS, as stewards of spectacular and biodiverse lands,
15 the passion of the people at Ted Turner reserves is to share
16 the transformative power of nature with guests through
17 authentic and meaningful experiences at the unique wilderness
18 properties; and

19 WHEREAS, Ted Turner is committed to restoring, sharing and
20 safeguarding America's wild places for future generations while
21 providing an inspiring guest experience that showcases the
22 planet's national treasures; and

23 WHEREAS, Ted Turner embodies the mission statement of Ted
24 Turner reserves: "connecting people with nature"; and

25 WHEREAS, Ted Turner's commitment to New Mexico's lands and

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1 wildlife species has passed to his children and grandchildren
2 to ensure that his commitment to New Mexico and throughout the
3 west survives and thrives;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
5 OF NEW MEXICO that Ted Turner and the Turner foundation be
6 recognized for their vision, generosity and stewardship of New
7 Mexico's lands and wildlife; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
9 transmitted to Ted Turner and the Turner foundation.