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HOUSE MEMORIAL 49

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016

INTRODUCED BY

Candy Spence Ezzell

A MEMORIAL

PROMOTING THE CONTINUED USE OF PRESCRIBED FIRE IN A SAFE AND CONTROLLED MANNER TO ENHANCE NATURAL LANDSCAPES AND TO SUPPORT NEW MEXICO AGRICULTURE.

WHEREAS, fire is an environmental driver and an essential component in most New Mexico ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, prescribed fire is the use of fire applied under specific conditions with appropriate planning; and

WHEREAS, prescribed fire allows the fire to be confined to a specific area to accomplish planned land management objectives; and

WHEREAS, ranchers must balance managing for forage, prescribed burning and mitigating wildfire; and

WHEREAS, fire is an important tool used by the state agriculture industry to clear fields, clean ditches and clear

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1 debris; and

2 WHEREAS, fire is a tool used by the state livestock
3 industry to maintain open grasslands and improve forage
4 quality; and

5 WHEREAS, cyclic burning in New Mexico forests and
6 woodlands promotes forest health; and

7 WHEREAS, wildfires usually start during dry periods when
8 excessive amounts of highly combustible materials have
9 accumulated; and

10 WHEREAS, wildfires often occur under extreme weather and
11 fuel conditions, making them difficult to control and possibly
12 detrimental to the ecosystem, as well as damaging desirable
13 plants and magnifying drought conditions; and

14 WHEREAS, prescribed fire can minimize the impacts and
15 reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires; and

16 WHEREAS, prescribed fire both maintains and improves
17 wildlife habitat and forage quality;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
19 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the continued
20 use of prescribed fire in a safe and controlled manner to
21 enhance natural landscapes and to support New Mexico
22 agriculture be promoted; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
24 transmitted to the secretary of environment, the director of
25 the New Mexico department of agriculture and the chair of the

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New Mexico prescribed fire council.

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