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HOUSE MEMORIAL 79

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

INTRODUCED BY

Stephanie Garcia Richard and Jeff Steinborn

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING FEBRUARY 8, 2016 AS "FILM DAY" IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, New Mexico has been a film-set magnet since movies began, with its magnificent and unbeatable vistas, magical sunrises and sunsets; its usually benign, though dramatic, weather; its Indian pueblos and old Hispanic communities; and its major large modern city; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico has been filmed as itself, as other states and as other countries, including Montana, Texas, Afghanistan and Indonesia, as other planets and even as the inside of earth itself, with the 1959 *Journey to the Center of the Earth* and several other movies filmed in Carlsbad Caverns; and

WHEREAS, in 1898, Thomas Alva Edison produced the first

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1 film in New Mexico, and one of the first ever in the American
2 west, called *Indian Day School*, a black-and-white silent
3 documentary filmed at the Pueblo of Isleta; and

4 WHEREAS, in the early 1900s, New Mexico was the filming
5 site of many movies, particularly those by Mack Sennett and
6 Romaine Fielding; and between 1908 and 1915, fifty-six movies
7 were filmed in New Mexico; and

8 WHEREAS, while there were films made in the state in the
9 1930s, such as *Billy the Kid*, filmed in Gallup, it was not
10 until the 1940s and 1950s that New Mexico really became a star
11 again, with the rise of westerns like *The Sea of Grass*, *Pursued*
12 and *Only the Valiant* and classics like *The Grapes of Wrath*; and

13 WHEREAS, who can forget the 1969 film *Easy Rider*, the
14 movie that defined the hippie generation, or *The Milagro*
15 *Beanfield War*, the still-relevant story of the battle for water
16 in northern New Mexico between traditional villagers and
17 developers; and

18 WHEREAS, a number of movie blockbusters have been filmed
19 in New Mexico, including *Young Guns*, *The Avengers*, *Armageddon*,
20 *No Country for Old Men* and *Terminator 2*; and

21 WHEREAS, film production has reached every corner of the
22 state, from the filming of *Transformers* on location in the
23 dunes of White Sands national monument and *Contact* at the very
24 large array, to *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom* in Chama
25 and *Sicario* in Albuquerque; and

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1 WHEREAS, while the New Mexico landscape has been showcased
2 in the film industry for more than a century and includes more
3 than six hundred productions, in more recent years television
4 production in the state has also boomed; and

5 WHEREAS, *In Plain Sight*, a dramatic television series
6 developed around the professional and personal lives of the
7 marshals of the federal witness protection program, filmed five
8 seasons on location in Albuquerque; and

9 WHEREAS, scenes for *Longmire*, a critically acclaimed
10 modern crime drama that follows the story of a Wyoming sheriff,
11 were filmed in Las Vegas, Santa Fe, Eagle Nest and Red River;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, the hit television series *Breaking Bad* brought
14 renewed attention to New Mexico, exciting tourists to travel
15 here from around the world specifically to catch a glimpse of
16 the characters' houses, the iconic carwash and other show
17 landmarks; and

18 WHEREAS, the great audience following and success of
19 *Breaking Bad* led to the filming of the spinoff series *Better*
20 *Call Saul* in Albuquerque as well; and

21 WHEREAS, the direct film and television industry has been
22 a lucrative employer in New Mexico, and the industry has
23 spurred film tourism; and

24 WHEREAS, the film industry injected nearly two hundred
25 ninety million dollars (\$290,000,000) into New Mexico's economy

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1 last year; and

2 WHEREAS, the New Mexico film office reported a record
3 seventy-seven productions in the past fiscal year that ended
4 June 30, and in 2015, New Mexico hosted twenty-five major
5 productions in principal photography; and

6 WHEREAS, a New Mexico film production tax incentive study
7 reported that in fiscal years 2010 through 2014 the industry
8 supported between two thousand five hundred and four thousand
9 jobs for state residents; and

10 WHEREAS, direct jobs created by the film and television
11 industry included positions for key creative teams, performing
12 artists, production offices, camera departments, technical
13 trade workers and post-production and other support services;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, filming movies and television shows in New Mexico
16 provides high-paying, creative jobs in the state's communities;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, film and television production in New Mexico
19 provides the state's local talent of actors, models, designers
20 and other artists with unique opportunities to develop their
21 craft in major productions, opportunities to which they may not
22 have access in Hollywood; and

23 WHEREAS, many local businesses benefit as well from the
24 patronage of film crews at restaurants and catering companies,
25 hotels, travel agencies, building supply companies and local

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1 stores where props and wardrobe are purchased; and

2 WHEREAS, film and television production in New Mexico
3 boosts residents' morale, fostering excitement and pride in
4 seeing our state or hometown on the silver screen;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
6 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 8,
7 2016 be declared "Film Day" in the house of representatives in
8 recognition of the contributions that film and television
9 productions in New Mexico provide to the economic and social
10 landscape; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
12 transmitted to the governor's council on film and media
13 industries.