1	SENATE MEMORIAL 11
2	52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016
3	INTRODUCED BY
4	William P. Soules
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10	A MEMORIAL
11	RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE PUBLIC LANDS LEGACY IN NEW MEXICO.
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13	WHEREAS, approximately twenty-six million acres of land in
14	New Mexico are owned by the people of the United States and
15	managed for the benefit of all citizens by federal public land
16	management agencies; and
17	WHEREAS, New Mexicans have the good fortune to live near
18	these federal public lands and to benefit from them
19	economically; and
20	WHEREAS, at least sixty-five percent of New Mexicans
21	participate in some form of outdoor recreation every year; and
22	WHEREAS, the outdoor recreation economy in New Mexico
23	generates four hundred fifty-eight million dollars
24	(\$458,000,000) in tax revenue and six billion one hundred
25	million dollars (\$6,100,000,000) in consumer spending each
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WHEREAS, healthy public lands with quality fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing, camping and other recreational resources are major factors in attracting new businesses and jobs to New Mexico that might otherwise locate elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, preserving access to outdoor recreation on public lands protects the economy, businesses, communities and people of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, access to and use of large tracts of healthy, viable, contiguous public lands are essential to the perpetuation of traditional New Mexico land uses such as hunting, fishing, grazing, firewood gathering and pinon nut and herb gathering; and

WHEREAS, all of these activities have long been a part of the traditional New Mexico lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, eighty-nine percent of New Mexico sportsmen and sportswomen use public lands to hunt and fish; and

WHEREAS, hunters and anglers spend more than six hundred thirteen million dollars (\$613,000,000) annually on recreational activities in New Mexico, contributing more than two hundred sixty-seven million dollars (\$267,000,000) in salaries and wages and fifty-one million four hundred thousand dollars (\$51,400,000) in state and local taxes while supporting nearly eight thousand jobs; and

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WHEREAS, both the Enabling Act for New Mexico and the constitution of New Mexico state that the "people inhabiting this state do agree and declare that they forever disclaim all right and title to the unappropriated and ungranted public lands lying within the boundaries thereof";

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the nation's and New Mexico's founders' foresight and wisdom be honored by protecting a public lands legacy that is vital to the state and national economies and to the health and well-being of the residents of New Mexico; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the United States secretary of the interior, the director of the United States bureau of land management, the chief of the United States forest service, the governor and New Mexico's congressional delegation.

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