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SENATE MEMORIAL 14

**51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014**

INTRODUCED BY

Howie C. Morales

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR INCREASED PENALTIES FOR AND EDUCATION ABOUT TROPHY POACHING; REQUESTING THAT THE GOVERNOR DECLARE A TROPHY POACHING AWARENESS DAY.

WHEREAS, wildlife belongs to the citizens of New Mexico and is too precious to be wasted; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico has a long tradition of hunting, which provides food for some families, income to local communities and opportunities for tourists to enjoy the animals that roam in this unique state; and

WHEREAS, trophy poaching is the act of illegally killing an animal for the most valuable part of its body, such as its head or antlers, and leaving the rest to waste; and

WHEREAS, trophy poaching is increasing in New Mexico, is unfair to legal hunters, damaging to big game populations and

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1 leaves fewer animals for future generations to enjoy; and

2 WHEREAS, although only a small percentage of hunters  
3 engage in trophy poaching, these hunters cause significant  
4 damage to big game animal populations by depriving them of  
5 successful genes for future generations; and

6 WHEREAS, big game animals have inherent value in  
7 themselves, value to people who enjoy seeing the animals in  
8 their natural habitat and economic value as a draw of tourists  
9 and legal hunters to the state; and

10 WHEREAS, trophy animals poached in New Mexico include elk,  
11 bighorn sheep, oryx, ibex, Barbary sheep, deer, pronghorn  
12 antelope, javelina, bear and cougar; and

13 WHEREAS, existing penalties do not effectively deter  
14 trophy poaching; and

15 WHEREAS, more public education is needed about the damage  
16 that trophy poaching causes and the need for greater  
17 enforcement;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
19 OF NEW MEXICO that the importance of wildlife in the state be  
20 recognized and that the harm caused by trophy poaching be  
21 acknowledged; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of game and  
23 fish be requested to take all possible steps to deter trophy  
24 poaching; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of game and

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1 fish be commended for proposing stiffer penalties for trophy  
2 poaching, such as making trophy poaching a fourth degree  
3 felony; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of game and  
5 fish be requested to take steps to increase public awareness  
6 that trophy poaching is illegal and to inform the public about  
7 how to report these crimes; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to  
9 issue a proclamation declaring a trophy poaching awareness day  
10 to further increase public awareness of the problems associated  
11 with trophy poaching; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
13 transmitted to the governor, the director of the department of  
14 game and fish and the chair of the state game commission.