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SENATE MEMORIAL 5

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING HISPANICS ENJOYING CAMPING, HUNTING, AND THE
OUTDOORS AND SUPPORTING A NEW MEXICO PUBLIC LANDS CONSERVATION
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL TO HELP ELEVATE THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF
HISPANIC CULTURE, TRADITIONS AND PERSPECTIVES IN STRENGTHENING
THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CONSERVATION OF PUBLIC LANDS AND WATERS
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

WHEREAS, New Mexico is rooted in a rich and multicultural
history, with forty-seven percent of the population having
Hispanic ancestry; and

WHEREAS, Hispanics have a strong connection to the
nation's diverse landscapes and practice centuries-old
traditions, such as fishing, hunting, farming, ranching and
wood, plant and piñon nut gathering, that require the
protection of public lands and waters; and

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1 WHEREAS, the Hispano customs of caring for and cultivating
2 the land responsibly and governing water for communities
3 through acequias are foundational to New Mexican heritage; and

4 WHEREAS, many New Mexico watersheds provide critical water
5 resources to communities, including municipal, domestic and
6 agricultural users, and provide clean water to numerous ancient
7 and agriculturally and culturally significant acequia systems;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, querencia, or love for the land, is a deeply held
10 value that connects southwestern Hispanics to a past, present
11 and future sense of belonging and purpose, is a principle that
12 prioritizes conservation for future generations and is a pillar
13 of what the group Hispanics enjoying camping, hunting, and the
14 outdoors, more commonly known as HECHO, is founded on; and

15 WHEREAS, HECHO was established in the southwest and was
16 founded to empower Hispanic leaders to engage their communities
17 in the conservation of public lands; and

18 WHEREAS, HECHO provides a platform for Hispanic voices to
19 be heard with respect to the protection of public lands,
20 healthy watersheds, clean air and robust wildlife habitats; and

21 WHEREAS, HECHO, in working toward building a robust public
22 lands conservation leadership council in New Mexico, encourages
23 everyone to join and support this effort and HECHO's mission;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, there is a need for effective policies that

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1 safeguard public lands for all; and

2 WHEREAS, Hispanos endeavor to continue to enjoy, and
3 practice and pass down, cultural traditions that depend on
4 public lands; and

5 WHEREAS, Hispanic leaders endeavor to be widely recognized
6 for contributions to public land conservation;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
8 OF NEW MEXICO that the importance of public participation of
9 all New Mexicans, including Hispanic New Mexicans, in decisions
10 and processes concerning public lands and waters be affirmed by
11 the legislature; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature express
13 support for HECHO in the creation of a public lands
14 conservation council of Hispanic leaders to build capacity and
15 create a formalized network of Hispanic public lands leaders to
16 increase participation and representation of Hispanics in such
17 matters; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature recognize the
19 important role that HECHO fills in ensuring that Hispanic
20 Americans and Hispano cultural and traditional uses of the land
21 are included in decisions about public lands and waters; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature recognize
23 HECHO as a group that connects and unites Hispanic leaders to
24 engage their communities in the conservation of public lands
25 and waters and fosters strong, culturally rich communities

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1 connected to nature and each other; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
3 transmitted to the governor, members of the New Mexico
4 congressional delegation, the commissioner of public lands, the
5 New Mexico state director of the federal bureau of land
6 management, the director of the intermountain regional office
7 of the United States national park service, the director of the
8 department of game and fish, the southwest regional director of
9 the United States fish and wildlife service and the regional
10 forester of the southwestern regional office of the United
11 States forest service.