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SENATE MEMORIAL 73

**51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013**

INTRODUCED BY  
Mary Kay Papen

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT TO REVIEW THE MASTER  
PLAN FOR LOS LUCEROS AND TAKE ANY STEPS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT  
THE MASTER PLAN IMMEDIATELY.

WHEREAS, Los Luceros is a one-hundred-thirty-acre property  
of great historic and natural value, located in the Espanola  
valley near Alcalde, which was purchased by the state to enable  
greater access to the property by the public; and

WHEREAS, the state gained ownership of Los Luceros in 2008  
with the aim of providing public access to the historic  
property, developing a retreat center for workshops, conducting  
seminars connected to New Mexico's film industry and providing  
a site for crop testing and environmental studies programming;  
and

WHEREAS, the estate was first owned by Luis Maria Ortiz, a  
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1 seventh-generation descendant of colonists who arrived with Don  
2 Diego de Vargas, for whom the main house, or casa grande, was  
3 constructed; and

4 WHEREAS, Mary Cabot Wheelwright, the founder of the museum  
5 that now bears her name, purchased the property in 1923 and  
6 lived there until her death in 1958; and

7 WHEREAS, Mary Wheelwright's heirs invested in a major  
8 renovation of the property, which was completed in 2001; and

9 WHEREAS, the structures on the grounds include the casa  
10 grande, which at one time acted as the county seat; an old  
11 jail; the Capilla de la Sagrada Familia chapel; a new visitors  
12 center and other facilities with historic significance; and

13 WHEREAS, the grounds also include orchards, a bosque and  
14 irrigated pastures, all of which provide habitat for at least  
15 one hundred sixty-two species of birds, both migratory and  
16 permanent residents, as well as many species of mammals and  
17 reptiles; and

18 WHEREAS, Los Luceros has been listed on the national  
19 register of historic places since 1983; and

20 WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2010, money was appropriated to  
21 the cultural affairs department by the legislature to complete  
22 a master plan for the use of Los Luceros; and

23 WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2010, federal stimulus money was  
24 appropriated to the cultural affairs department by the United  
25 States government to complete architectural planning and

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1 construction pursuant to the master plan for the use of Los  
2 Luceros; and

3 WHEREAS, the property is currently closed and unattended,  
4 possibly putting in jeopardy the condition of the structures  
5 and plantings on the property, as well as its listing on the  
6 national register of historic places; and

7 WHEREAS, with the property closed, public access to the  
8 property is not possible;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
10 OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of cultural affairs be  
11 requested to review the master plan for Los Luceros and take  
12 any steps necessary to implement the master plan immediately;  
13 and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the cultural affairs  
15 department be requested to report to the interim revenue  
16 stabilization and tax policy committee and to the legislative  
17 finance committee on its master plan implementation no later  
18 than November 1, 2013; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
20 transmitted to the secretary of cultural affairs.