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SENATE MEMORIAL 10

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

INTRODUCED BY

Siah Correa Hemphill

A MEMORIAL

URGING MEMBERS OF THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND ALL OTHER MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO RESTORE THE NATURE, ECONOMY AND SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO BORDER.

WHEREAS, the border region uniting the United States and Mexico is an area of exceptional cultural and ecological diversity; and

WHEREAS, a resilient border environment, sustainable economy and strong communities benefit both nations and strengthen their cooperation; and

WHEREAS, extended drought has had a disproportionate impact on rural communities, farmers, ranchers and others dependent on water and irrigation in the desert; and

WHEREAS, construction of the border wall has adversely

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1 affected streams, springs and wetlands near the border, many of
2 which are sacred to indigenous peoples; and

3 WHEREAS, border wall construction has severed migratory
4 pathways for many species, including deer, bison, jaguars and
5 other species of concern to the public and science; and

6 WHEREAS, the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic has led to
7 hardship and a dramatic rise in unemployment, particularly for
8 people of color and from other underrepresented groups who face
9 systemic barriers to economic well-being; and

10 WHEREAS, many of these same people hold traditional and
11 experiential knowledge that is extremely valuable to restoring
12 and sustaining productive livelihoods in the arid border
13 region; and

14 WHEREAS, New Mexico has developed scientific understanding
15 and practical tools for ecological restoration, sustainable
16 land use and collaborative conservation addressing the very
17 lands most impacted by recent federal border policies and most
18 in need of immediate attention;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
20 OF NEW MEXICO that the United States congress be urged to
21 pursue actions to immediately restore critical wildlife
22 connections as an important first step toward conserving
23 wildlife and protecting the integrity of the network of parks,
24 natural areas and sacred sites that have been nurtured for
25 generations on both sides of the border; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States congress be
2 urged to fund restoration of highly degraded riverine, riparian
3 and wetland habitats to protect natural resources and jump-
4 start local economies by safeguarding water, the lifeblood for
5 people, agriculture, industry and nature in the desert; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States congress be
7 urged to provide for a new borderlands conservation corps,
8 modeled after the successes of the civilian conservation corps,
9 to train and provide opportunities for underemployed residents
10 in the border region, address environmental justice by
11 improving environmental quality in underserved communities,
12 mitigate the environmental impacts of the border wall and
13 ensure that conservation and economic development are carried
14 forward together, at scales that tip the balance toward
15 sustainable communities and secure borders; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States department
17 of the interior, the United States department of agriculture
18 and the United States department of homeland security be urged
19 to carefully consider recommendations for addressing the need
20 for restoration of the borderlands and to implement these
21 recommendations in a timely and efficient manner, to the best
22 of their ability, in close cooperation with the landowners,
23 public servants and elected officials of New Mexico and
24 neighboring states; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

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1 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation and the
2 members of the United States congress.

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