



**The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico**

**FIFTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION, 2014**

SENATE MEMORIAL 70

INTRODUCED BY

SENATOR WILLIAM P. SOULES

**A MEMORIAL
HONORING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
WILDERNESS ACT OF 1964**

WHEREAS, in 1964, the United States Congress passed the Wilderness Act by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote, and this farsighted legislation was signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson on September 3, 1964; and

WHEREAS, the Wilderness Act created America's National Wilderness Preservation System of Federal Lands to be "administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness, and will provide for the protection of these areas and the preservation of their wilderness character"; and

WHEREAS, the Wilderness Act made it the "policy of Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness . . . in order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition"; and

WHEREAS, wilderness, "in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is recognized as Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, which generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable, and has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation"; and