

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY SIXTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. M-25-5 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Tammy Fiebelkorn

1 MEMORIAL
2 EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE ALBUQUERQUE CITY COUNCIL FOR
3 THE CONTINUED FEDERAL STEWARDSHIP OF PUBLIC LANDS IN
4 ALBUQUERQUE AND BERNALILLO COUNTY.

5 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque, New Mexico, is located in Bernalillo
6 County, where approximately 21 percent of the county's land is public, and
7 much of that lies near or within City limits, including the Sandia Ranger
8 District of the Cibola National Forest, Petroglyph National Monument, and
9 other federally managed areas integral to the region's environment and quality
10 of life; and

11 WHEREAS, these public lands, managed by federal agencies such as the
12 U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and the Bureau of Land
13 Management, provide valuable resources including wildlife habitats,
14 recreational spaces, and grazing or open-space uses useful to surrounding
15 communities; and

16 WHEREAS, the citizens of Albuquerque deeply value access to public
17 lands for recreation, economic opportunity, cultural heritage, and spiritual
18 benefit, recognizing these lands are broadly accessible without
19 socioeconomic, racial, or gender limitations; and

20 WHEREAS, public lands contribute significantly to New Mexico's economy
21 through outdoor recreation, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic
22 Analysis (BEA) 2023 data, outdoor recreation generated \$3.2 billion in value
23 added, accounting for 2.4 % of the state's GDP, supported approximately
24 29,182 jobs, and delivered substantial tax revenues in New Mexico; and

25 WHEREAS, according to a 2023 Conservation in the West Poll, 84 percent
26 of Westerners are more likely to support presidents who use their power to

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1 protect existing public lands. Similarly, the 2024 poll found that 85 percent of
2 the people support creating new national parks, national monuments, national
3 wildlife refuges and Tribal protected areas to protect historic sites or areas for
4 outdoor recreation; and

5 WHEREAS, the costs associated with managing these lands are a national
6 responsibility, and federal involvement is crucial for the long-term health and
7 sustainability of these resources; and

8 WHEREAS, recent and ongoing attempts to transfer or sell off public lands
9 are inconsistent with the values and interests of the residents of Albuquerque
10 and the broader New Mexico community; and

11 BE IT MEMORIALIZED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE
12 CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE:

13 Section 1. The Albuquerque City Council:

14 A. Expresses its strong support for the continued federal management and
15 stewardship of public lands within Albuquerque and Bernalillo County.

16 B. Opposes any efforts to sell, transfer, or dispose of these public lands to
17 state or local governments or private entities.

18 C. Encourages the New Mexico Congressional Delegation to oppose any
19 legislation that would diminish public land protections, and to support policies
20 ensuring long term preservation and sustainable multiple use management.

21 D. Requests full federal funding for public lands programs, particularly
22 opposing any proposals in federal budget reconciliation to divest public lands,
23 weaken the Antiquities Act, or reduce existing national monument areas.

24 E. Recognizes the importance of multiple-use land management, including
25 recreation, grazing, and responsible resource development, and advocates for
26 a balanced approach.

27 F. Urges federal land management agencies to continue and deepen
28 collaboration with local governments, Tribal nations, stakeholders, and
29 community groups to enable effective and responsible land stewardship.

30 Section 2. The City Clerk is directed to transmit copies of the Memorial to
31 the Governor of New Mexico, the New Mexico Congressional Delegation, the
32 U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service
33 offices influencing Albuquerque/Bernalillo County.