

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 24

2 **51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 John Pinto

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO URGE THE
12 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY TO EXPEDITE THE CLEANUP OF
13 THE FORT WINGATE AMMUNITION DEPOT AND TO APPROPRIATE THE FUNDS
14 NECESSARY FOR THAT PURPOSE.

15
16 WHEREAS, the Fort Wingate ammunition depot, located east
17 of Gallup, sits among the red rocks along United States
18 interstate 40, next to the Navajo Nation and the Pueblo of Zuni
19 in New Mexico; and

20 WHEREAS, Fort Wingate occupies ancestral homelands of both
21 the Navajo Nation and the Pueblo of Zuni; and

22 WHEREAS, Fort Wingate contains sites rich in cultural
23 heritage and historical significance; and

24 WHEREAS, more than two hundred Navajo ruins were
25 discovered on the property, as well as several modern earth-

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1 covered dwellings, called "hogans"; and

2 WHEREAS, the property served for centuries as a hunting
3 and gathering area for the Zuni, and more than six hundred
4 archaeological sites were recorded by surveyors, including an
5 additional two hundred ruins traceable to the Anasazi,
6 ancestors of the Zuni; and

7 WHEREAS, in 1918, the army established a munitions depot
8 at Fort Wingate; and

9 WHEREAS, from 1918 until its closure, the twenty-two-
10 thousand-acre installation stored and demolished ammunition;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Fort Wingate stored, conducted functional testing
13 of and demilitarized munitions, using open-burning detonation,
14 incineration and bomb washout as the principal demilitarization
15 methods, and these practices deposited ordnance-related waste
16 on and off the facility; and

17 WHEREAS, munitions testing, explosive washout activities,
18 rocket launches, training activities, open burns, open
19 detonations, demilitarization, ammunition packaging, storing
20 and shipping and munitions recycling and remanufacturing have
21 released contaminants into the ground water and the soil; and

22 WHEREAS, the aforementioned contaminants, as well as
23 asbestos and lead paint in buildings, buried waste and
24 unexploded ordnance, present human health and ecological
25 hazards at Fort Wingate; and

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1 WHEREAS, Fort Wingate is under the command of the United
2 States department of the army and is classified as a hazardous
3 waste treatment facility under New Mexico's Hazardous Waste Act
4 and the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, the United States department of the army, the
7 United States army corps of engineers and the bureau of Indian
8 affairs have taken collaborative efforts to clean up the site
9 and to return a large portion of Fort Wingate to the Navajo
10 Nation and the Pueblo of Zuni; and

11 WHEREAS, under current funding and appropriations toward
12 the cleanup of Fort Wingate by the United States, scheduled
13 compliance with cleanup efforts will not be completed until the
14 year 2020;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
16 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico congressional
17 delegation urge the United States department of the army to
18 expedite the cleanup of Fort Wingate so that it may be returned
19 to the Navajo Nation and the Pueblo of Zuni and to appropriate
20 the funds necessary for that purpose; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
22 transmitted to United States Senator Tom Udall, United States
23 Senator Martin T. Heinrich, United States Representative Steve
24 Pearce, United States Representative Ben R. Lujan, United
25 States Representative Michelle Lujan Grisham, the president of

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1 the Navajo Nation, the speaker of the Navajo Nation council and
2 the governor of the Pueblo of Zuni.

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