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SENATE MEMORIAL 45

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

Pete Campos

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER, THE INTERSTATE
STREAM COMMISSION AND REGIONAL STAKEHOLDERS TO STUDY OPTIONS
FOR ADDRESSING WATER SUPPLY ISSUES IN NORTHEASTERN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, New Mexico is located in the great American
southwestern desert; and

WHEREAS, the effects of climate change, unpredictable
weather patterns and water shortages threaten the economy and
overall well-being and safety of New Mexico farmers, ranchers,
city residents and rural residents alike; and

WHEREAS, as of January 2015, drought conditions were
considered extremely dry, with January statewide precipitation
well below normal to nonexistent; and

WHEREAS, January 2014 was considered the driest January on
record since 1895, and while the subsequent months showed some
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1 improvement, average precipitation was only thirty-four percent
2 of normal by April; and

3 WHEREAS, May 2014 was considered the wettest month of the
4 year, at eighty-nine percent of normal, with unusual amounts of
5 precipitation in September, and at the close of 2014,
6 precipitation ended up being ninety-five percent of normal for
7 the calendar year; and

8 WHEREAS, unpredictable weather patterns, such as those in
9 2014, further highlight the need to be able to store and
10 transport water in particularly dry years; and

11 WHEREAS, large regional projects that increase the ability
12 to store and import water from other areas have proven to be an
13 effective approach to addressing water shortage issues, helping
14 communities around the state alleviate or mitigate some of
15 their water shortage issues; and

16 WHEREAS, large projects, such as the Ute water pipeline
17 project in eastern New Mexico and the Navajo-Gallup water
18 supply project, have been planned for years but have only
19 recently begun construction to help store water and import it
20 to areas of the state that desperately need it;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
22 OF NEW MEXICO that the office of the state engineer, the
23 interstate stream commission and water stakeholders in
24 northeastern New Mexico be requested to study and develop ways
25 of addressing water shortage issues in northeastern New Mexico,

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1 including identifying potential water sources outside of the
2 region and developing a pipeline to some other large-scale
3 regional water project to bring water to the area; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
5 transmitted to the office of the state engineer, the interstate
6 stream commission, the county commissioners of Guadalupe, San
7 Miguel, Mora and Colfax counties and the cities of Raton, Las
8 Vegas and Santa Rosa.

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