

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING FEBRUARY 11, 2025 "ACEQUIA DAY" IN THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES.

4  
5 WHEREAS, for generations, acequias have supported a way  
6 of life centered around local agriculture and customs of  
7 sharing water; and

8 WHEREAS, acequias are a centuries-old form of water  
9 governance in New Mexico that have created a cultural  
10 landscape with a web of waterways that nurture tens of  
11 thousands of acres of farmland; and

12 WHEREAS, acequia customs and traditions regarding  
13 agriculture, seed saving, irrigation practices and food  
14 preservation are important aspects of the cultural heritage  
15 of New Mexico; and

16 WHEREAS, acequias contribute to the well-being and  
17 livelihood of thousands of families who generate income from  
18 farming and ranching, thereby supporting diversification of  
19 New Mexico's economy through local food production; and

20 WHEREAS, acequias and community ditches number over  
21 seven hundred in New Mexico with each one governed, operated  
22 and maintained by elected commissioners and mayordomos; and

23 WHEREAS, the role of acequias in local governance has  
24 been affirmed by laws enacted by the state recognizing  
25 acequias as political subdivisions and enabling acequias to

1 have important powers in local water management; and

2 WHEREAS, for more than fifty years, acequias have come  
3 together to protect and defend water rights, advocate for  
4 water policies strengthening acequia governance and support  
5 funding programs for acequia infrastructure; and

6 WHEREAS, the New Mexico acequia association was  
7 established in 1989 to advocate for water policy beneficial  
8 to acequias, and the acequia commission was created in  
9 statute in 1993 to serve as an advisory body in state  
10 government; and

11 WHEREAS, hydrological studies by the New Mexico water  
12 resources research institute at New Mexico state university  
13 have documented hydrological benefits of acequias, including  
14 aquifer recharge through earthen ditches; and

15 WHEREAS, as water management is complicated by long-term  
16 drought and increasing demands for water, acequias will  
17 continue to be important in any decisions about water policy  
18 at the local and state levels;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
20 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 11,  
21 2025 be declared "Acequia Day" in the house of  
22 representatives in honor of the contributions of acequias to  
23 the history, culture, economy and management of water  
24 resources in New Mexico; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

1 transmitted to the New Mexico acequia association and the  
2 acequia commission. \_\_\_\_\_

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