

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

SENATE MEMORIAL 23

**57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

INTRODUCED BY

Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER TO STUDY THE BENEFITS, COSTS AND FEASIBILITY OF CONSTRUCTING AN EARTHEN WATER IMPOUNDMENT FOR WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION AND STRUCTURE PROTECTION IN TAOS COUNTY AND THE NECESSARY WATER RIGHTS TO FILL THE IMPOUNDMENT AND REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, New Mexico has endured sequential wildfire seasons that are among the most devastating in the state's history; and

WHEREAS, large portions of Taos county overlap with the Carson national forest; and

WHEREAS, Taos county is home to two sovereign Indian pueblo communities, making it a necessity to engage in cross-jurisdictional consultation so that first responders can be

underscoring material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

underscoring material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 prepared to respond to wildfires that cross governmental  
2 boundaries; and

3 WHEREAS, it is important to ensure that first responders  
4 have access to legal water supplies for fire suppression and  
5 protection of structures in proximity to wildfires; and

6 WHEREAS, an evaluation of the benefits and costs of  
7 constructing a new earthen impoundment for water in Taos county  
8 for wildfire suppression and structure protection during  
9 wildfires would be beneficial to tribal and local governments  
10 and state agencies that will need to respond to future  
11 wildfires in Taos county; and

12 WHEREAS, the mission of the office of the state engineer  
13 includes analysis of water impoundment structures, the  
14 management of the state's waters and the tracking of water  
15 rights;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
17 OF NEW MEXICO that the office of the state engineer be  
18 requested to coordinate with state, local and tribal government  
19 agencies to study:

20 A. the benefits, costs and feasibility of  
21 constructing a new earthen impoundment for water in Taos county  
22 for wildfire suppression and structure protection during  
23 wildfires; and

24 B. the availability and cost of the water rights  
25 needed to fill such an impoundment with water; and

.231076.1

underscoring material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of the state engineer be requested to report its findings and recommendations to the appropriate interim committee that studies issues concerning water and natural resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the office of the state engineer, the board of county commissioners of Taos county, the governor of the Pueblo of Taos, the governor of the Pueblo of Picuris and the mayors of the municipalities in Taos county.