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SENATE MEMORIAL 8

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - 2ND SPECIAL SESSION, 2000**

INTRODUCED BY

Sue F. Wilson

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH A  
TASK FORCE TO CONDUCT CONSENSUS PLANNING ON WATER BANKING  
LEGISLATION.

WHEREAS, the surface waters of nearly all stream systems  
of the state are fully appropriated and their underlying  
aquifers are being rapidly depleted; and

WHEREAS, continued growth of the population in New  
Mexico will place more demands on these already limited water  
supplies; and

WHEREAS, traditional agricultural water users are being  
threatened by increasing pressure to sell their water rights  
to municipal and industrial users; and

WHEREAS, there are no incentives in current New Mexico  
law for agricultural users to invest in the technology  
necessary to reduce consumptive water use; and

WHEREAS, current law does not provide the flexibility

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1 necessary to share water among different users for different  
2 beneficial uses; and

3 WHEREAS, instituting a consensus water banking plan may  
4 result in better management of the waters of the state while  
5 addressing concerns of traditional agricultural users;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council  
8 be asked to establish a task force to conduct consensus  
9 planning on water banking and to report its findings to the  
10 appropriate interim committee by November 1, 2000; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force employ the  
12 western governors' association's enlibra negotiation process  
13 and that representatives of state political subdivisions,  
14 federal agencies, Indian nations, tribes and pueblos and  
15 public interest organizations concerned with the future of  
16 water use in New Mexico be invited to participate in the  
17 process; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
19 transmitted to the New Mexico legislative council.