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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 49
45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001
INTRODUCED BY
Jeannette Wallace

A JOINT MEMORIAL
REQUESTING THE DRINKING WATER BUREAU OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT AND THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER TO COOPERATE
WITH THE NEW MEXICO FINANCE AUTHORITY TO FIND SOLUTIONS FOR
RURAL WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE PROBLEMS.

WHEREAS, rural water users throughout New Mexico are
experiencing significant problems associated with aging water
systems and drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, many systems that provide life-sustaining water
to citizens of New Mexico have been refused assistance by the
drinking water bureau of the department of environment; and

WHEREAS, federal money is available to match state-
financed improvement projects for rural systems, but is
subject to approval by the drinking water bureau of the
department of environment; and

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1 WHEREAS, the New Mexico finance authority is prepared to
2 provide assistance to rural water users, but cannot without
3 action by the drinking water bureau and the office of the
4 state engineer; and

5 WHEREAS, the office of the state engineer's review of
6 water rights as a condition of approved financing has resulted
7 in denial of rural water users' water rights and financing for
8 improvements to those systems; and

9 WHEREAS, continued frustration of rural water users'
10 needs is resulting in a health as well as economic impact to
11 these citizens of New Mexico;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
13 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the drinking water bureau of the
14 department of environment and the office of the state engineer
15 be requested to expedite assistance to rural water users and
16 to cooperate with the New Mexico finance authority in carrying
17 out the statutory duties of the department of environment and
18 the state engineer to support water system improvements and to
19 administer water rights; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of environment
21 and the state engineer report to the legislative council by
22 June 1, 2001 on the progress in expediting financing of rural
23 water system improvements; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
25 transmitted to the secretary of environment and to the state

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