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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 60

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

INTRODUCED BY

James Roger Madalena

A JOINT MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING CONGRESS AND THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL
DELEGATION TO STRENGTHEN REQUIREMENTS FOR INSPECTION AND
MAINTENANCE OF ALL PIPELINES THAT CARRY POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS,
EXPLOSIVE OR ENVIRONMENTALLY HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES.**

**WHEREAS, a system of pipelines crosses the country and
pipelines can be found in most counties of most states; and**

**WHEREAS, many of the materials carried via pipeline are
under high pressure and can cause great bodily harm or
environmental damage if the pipeline is breached; and**

**WHEREAS, many pipelines extend through remote areas and
it is difficult for their owners to continually monitor the
integrity of a pipeline and the stability of its surroundings;
and**

**WHEREAS, many pipelines are in dangerous condition
because the soil they are buried in has been washed out by**

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 flood or eroded by other natural causes and there is nothing
2 supporting the pipeline as was initially intended; some are
3 rusted or otherwise chemically compromised and weakened; and
4 others are simply old and physically damaged or may have
5 joints that are no longer secure due to movement of the
6 pipeline from its original position or due to stress that was
7 not anticipated at installation; and

8 WHEREAS, the public wants to be assured that pipelines in
9 their communities are inspected and maintained so that there
10 is no need for concern about accidents or catastrophes; and

11 WHEREAS, the number of pipelines crossing the country
12 will increase to transport greater amounts of natural gas,
13 oil, gasoline, carbon dioxide and other substances too varied
14 to list; and

15 WHEREAS, even though there are federal inspection and
16 maintenance standards for some pipelines, inspection and
17 maintenance of pipelines that run near homes and recreational
18 sites is minimal, and many pipelines are in seriously damaged
19 condition and are subject to rupture; and such rupture would
20 cause grave damage to humans, livestock or the environment;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, federal laws requiring pipeline inspections and
23 maintenance need to be reviewed and strengthened and the scope
24 of materials transported by pipeline should be expanded to
25 include all dangerous pipelines, so that people who live near

underscored material = new
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1 pipelines can rest assured that the pipelines pose no danger
2 to their family or property;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
4 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that its congressional delegation and all
5 of the members of congress be requested to seriously review
6 the pipeline safety standards in federal law and make certain
7 that there is no way that a pipeline owner can avoid
8 maintaining a pipeline in a manner that assures the health and
9 safety of people, livestock and other animals, property and
10 the environment in the vicinity of the pipeline; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the range of materials
12 transported by pipeline that is covered by federal law be
13 reviewed and any materials transported by pipeline that could
14 pose a threat to life or property because of its pressure,
15 heat or caustic, poisonous or explosive nature should be
16 included in the regulatory scheme for pipeline safety; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
18 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation, the
19 president pro tempore of the United States Senate and the
20 speaker of the United States house of representatives.