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HOUSE MEMORIAL 2

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002

INTRODUCED BY

Ray Begaye

FOR THE WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE NAVAJO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY AND TO APPROPRIATE ADEQUATE FUNDS TO COMPLETE THE CONSTRUCTION AND TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THE NAVAJO INDIAN IRRIGATION PROJECT.

WHEREAS, the Navajo agricultural products industry, a farming and agribusiness enterprise of the Navajo Nation, was formed in 1970 to develop the Navajo Nation's agricultural economy on the lands of the Navajo Indian irrigation project; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo agricultural products industry's customers include major food processing companies throughout the United States and internationally, and the "Navajo Pride" brand has gained wide consumer acceptance as an excellent high-quality product; and

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1 WHEREAS, the Navajo agricultural products industry is a
2 diverse, profitable business enterprise that directly
3 contributes over fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000) annually
4 to the regional economy and employs three hundred full-time
5 employees and one thousand seasonal employees during peak
6 operations; and

7 WHEREAS, the Navajo agricultural products industry's
8 future projects include continued crop diversification, food
9 processing plants, modern crop storage and processing
10 facilities to fulfill customer packaging preferences and peak
11 market demands; and

12 WHEREAS, the Navajo agricultural products industry uses
13 water provided by the Navajo Indian irrigation project to
14 cultivate sixty thousand acres and, since the project
15 completion schedule has been delayed by more than twenty
16 years, the industry cannot cultivate the remaining fifty
17 thousand acres; and

18 WHEREAS, further completion delays of the irrigation
19 project will have negative impacts through lost economic
20 benefits to the Navajo agricultural products industry and the
21 Navajo Nation's plans for a self-sustaining agricultural-based
22 economy in northwestern New Mexico; and

23 WHEREAS, the Navajo agricultural products industry board
24 of directors has requested assistance and support from the
25 United States congress and the president of the United States

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1 in securing adequate and sustained funding for the timely
2 completion of the Navajo Indian irrigation project and to
3 increase the appropriation for the bureau of Indian affairs
4 irrigation canal operation and maintenance, which the Navajo
5 agricultural products industry contracts from the bureau of
6 Indian affairs;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
8 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it support the
9 Navajo agricultural products industry and the Navajo Nation's
10 efforts to provide a self-sustaining agricultural-based
11 economy in northwestern New Mexico; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States congress be
13 requested to appropriate enough funds to complete construction
14 of the Navajo Indian irrigation project and to sustain
15 appropriations for the bureau of Indian affairs to operate and
16 maintain the project; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
18 transmitted to the state engineer, the New Mexico
19 congressional delegation, the president of the United States,
20 the Navajo agricultural products industry board of directors,
21 the Navajo Nation president and the Navajo Nation council.