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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 63
45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002
INTRODUCED BY
Dede Feldman

A JOINT MEMORIAL
SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LA SEMILLA ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION AND LIQUID WASTE TRAINING FACILITY TO PROVIDE, AMONG
OTHER THINGS, TRAINING AND DEMONSTRATIONS TO DESIGNERS,
INSTALLERS, CONTRACTORS, BUSINESSES, PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND THE
PUBLIC REGARDING ON-SITE LIQUID WASTE SYSTEMS, WASTEWATER
MANAGEMENT, RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND WATER REUSE.

WHEREAS, there are approximately one hundred eighty
thousand on-site liquid waste systems in New Mexico,
discharging about sixty-eight million gallons of sewage
effluent per day; and

WHEREAS, discharges from on-site liquid waste systems are
the second largest source of ground water contamination in the
state; and

WHEREAS, on-site liquid waste systems are responsible for

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1 approximately sixty-one percent of the water supply well
2 contamination in New Mexico; and

3 WHEREAS, most areas of population growth in the state are
4 poorly suited for the installation of on-site liquid waste
5 systems; and

6 WHEREAS, discharges from on-site liquid waste systems
7 contain organisms that transmit disease and infection; and

8 WHEREAS, as long as they are properly designed,
9 installed and maintained, on-site liquid waste systems can be
10 an economical and environmentally sound waste treatment option
11 for rural areas and small communities; and

12 WHEREAS, the success of on-site liquid waste systems
13 depends on well-trained and educated designers and installers;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, there is currently no facility in New Mexico to
16 educate and train on-site liquid waste system designers and
17 installers;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it support the creation and
20 establishment of La Semilla environmental education and liquid
21 waste training facility, located on the Mesa del Sol state
22 trust land near the city of Albuquerque, in its effort to
23 educate and train on-site liquid waste system designers and
24 installers, contractors, public officials and the public
25 regarding the design, installation and maintenance of on-site

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1 liquid waste systems; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the La Semilla facility be
3 requested to assist businesses in responding to new liquid
4 waste and wastewater regulations, to train businesses and the
5 general public on wastewater reuse and to demonstrate to
6 businesses and the public cost-effective and environmentally
7 friendly technologies; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the facility be requested to
9 provide hands-on demonstrations of current, new and emerging
10 technologies, as well as practical, updated training, and to
11 provide a venue for the public to see new technologies and
12 methods of energy, resource, water and wastewater management;
13 and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the facility be requested to
15 allow the university of New Mexico, New Mexico institute of
16 mining and technology and New Mexico state university to use
17 the facility to conduct research and demonstrate new and
18 advanced technologies in on-site liquid waste treatment,
19 wastewater treatment, wastewater reuse and energy and resource
20 management; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
22 forwarded to the department of environment, the state land
23 office, the university of New Mexico, the New Mexico institute
24 of mining and technology and New Mexico state university.

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