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1 members of seven pueblos and tribes make prayer pilgrimages;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, the unique ecosystem of Zuni Salt lake and the
4 surrounding sanctuary district is eligible for inclusion in
5 the national register of historic places as a traditional
6 cultural property; and

7 WHEREAS, studies by the bureau of Indian affairs find
8 that the mine would drain the Dakota aquifer to a point that
9 it would cause irrevocable damage to the sacred Zuni Salt
10 lake; and

11 WHEREAS, no people of any faith should have their sacred
12 areas destroyed; and

13 WHEREAS, the United States department of the interior has
14 a trust responsibility to all Native American tribes to
15 protect their lands and culture;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
17 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of energy, minerals and
18 natural resources and the director of the mining and minerals
19 division of the energy, minerals and natural resources
20 department be requested to reconsider the issuance of the
21 mining permit issued for the Salt river project's proposed
22 Fence lake coal strip mine near Zuni Salt lake; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of the interior
24 be requested not to issue any needed permits for this project;
25 and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural resources, to the director of the mining and minerals division of the energy, minerals and natural resources department and to the secretary of the interior.

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