

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT TO STUDY AND MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE DISPOSAL OF COMPUTERS.

WHEREAS, it is estimated that there will be more than three hundred fifteen
million obsolete computers in the United States by 2004; and

WHEREAS, as consumers accelerate the pace with which they replace
computers, landfill managers face a growing dilemma caused by both the volume of
waste generated by computers and by the hazardous materials in computers that could
be released into the environment once they are discarded; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico currently has no regulations concerning the disposal of
computers; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico in 1990 enacted the Solid Waste Act in an admirable
effort to manage the disposal of refuse and to encourage recycling; and

WHEREAS, while there are no large scale computer recycling operations in
New Mexico, it is possible that some would be formed if a market were created; and

WHEREAS, it is always desirable to recycle refuse and especially so in the
case of computers because of the costs and risks associated with disposing of
computers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of environment be requested to study
the costs and benefits of implementing a computer recycling program, whether under
its own management or that of private enterprise; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of environment report its

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findings and recommendations, if any, to the appropriate interim committee of the legislature prior to December 1, 2003; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the secretary of environment.

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