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HOUSE MEMORIAL 1

**52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015**

INTRODUCED BY

Patricia Roybal Caballero

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION OF THE ENERGY,  
MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT TO POST CERTAIN  
INFORMATION RELATING TO THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY ON THE  
DIVISION'S WEB SITE.

WHEREAS, the oil and gas industry is critical to the  
health of New Mexico's economy; and

WHEREAS, with over seven hundred million barrels, New  
Mexico ranks fifth in the United States in oil reserves; and

WHEREAS, each year, the state receives a substantial  
amount of revenue from taxes and royalties from businesses  
associated with the oil and gas industry; and

WHEREAS, the strength of the oil and gas industry  
correlates directly to funding for the state's educational  
systems, roads and public facilities and to the state of the

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1 New Mexico economy; and

2 WHEREAS, media reports have heightened public concern  
3 about the potential negative impact of oil and gas drilling on  
4 the environment and public health, particularly in the context  
5 of contaminated ground water; and

6 WHEREAS, it is important to address that concern; and

7 WHEREAS, transparency and accurate information are  
8 critical to the functioning of the political system;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
10 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the oil  
11 conservation division of the energy, minerals and natural  
12 resources department be requested to conspicuously post the  
13 following information on the division's web site for each of  
14 the years 2008 through 2014 and each year thereafter:

15 A. the number of stripper, active, temporary and  
16 inactive oil and gas wells;

17 B. the number of oil conservation division oil and  
18 gas well inspectors;

19 C. violations of the Oil and Gas Act, presented as  
20 follows:

21 (1) a general categorization of violations and  
22 an indication of those that threaten or contaminate ground  
23 water;

24 (2) in each category, the number of violations  
25 and the amount in fines collected;

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1                   (3) in each category, a list of the oil and  
2 gas facilities fined for having committed a violation, the  
3 county in which the violation occurred, the violation date, the  
4 date that compliance was achieved and an indication of whether  
5 the violation was filed in court or settled in court; and

6                   (4) the specific actions of the oil  
7 conservation division in response to each violation that  
8 threatened or contaminated ground water;

9                   D. the cash balance in the oil and gas reclamation  
10 fund at the beginning of each fiscal year; and

11                   E. the amount, purpose and type of expenditures  
12 from the oil and gas reclamation fund; and

13                   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, by November 1, 2015, the oil  
14 conservation division be requested to present this information  
15 for years 2008 through 2014, with recommendations that could  
16 help the oil conservation division's efforts to address public  
17 concerns about the impact of drilling on ground water, to the  
18 governor and to the three legislative interim committees that  
19 deal with natural resources, hazardous materials and legal  
20 issues; and

21                   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
22 transmitted to the oil conservation division of the energy,  
23 minerals and natural resources department, the governor, the  
24 president pro tempore of the senate and the speaker of the  
25 house of representatives.

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