

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING FEBRUARY 3, 2017 "WATER IS LIFE DAY" IN THE SENATE.

3
4 WHEREAS, water is sacred and the essence of all life;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, two-thirds of the earth's surface is covered
7 by water, and the human body consists of seventy-five percent
8 water; and

9 WHEREAS, over sixty-eight percent of the fresh water on
10 earth is trapped in glaciers, and thirty percent of fresh
11 water is in the ground; and

12 WHEREAS, a person can live for about a month without
13 food but only for about a week without water; and

14 WHEREAS, approximately four hundred billion gallons of
15 water are used in the United States every day; and

16 WHEREAS, seven hundred eighty million people lack access
17 to an improved water source; and

18 WHEREAS, water is New Mexico's most precious resource,
19 especially during times of drought; and

20 WHEREAS, New Mexico's water sources are fragile and face
21 serious ecological challenges; and

22 WHEREAS, the Rio Grande, essential to New Mexico's
23 agricultural regions, is polluted by raw sewage and toxic
24 chemicals; and

25 WHEREAS, the national conservation group, American

1 rivers, ranked the Rio Grande as the seventh most endangered
2 river in the United States; and

3 WHEREAS, water has a special meaning to Native
4 Americans, and it is recognized as being sacred and the
5 essence of all life; and

6 WHEREAS, water is medicine and is spiritual to the
7 Navajo Nation and all New Mexico tribes and pueblos; and

8 WHEREAS, on the Navajo reservation, the community of
9 Shiprock and surrounding areas rely on the water from the
10 San Juan and Animas rivers for irrigation; and

11 WHEREAS, on August 5, 2015, an environmental disaster
12 occurred at the Gold King mine near Silverton, Colorado,
13 where contractors accidentally destroyed the plug holding
14 water trapped inside the mine, which caused an overflow of
15 the pond, spilling three million gallons of wastewater into
16 the Animas river; and

17 WHEREAS, the spill has affected the waterways of
18 municipalities in Colorado, Utah and New Mexico, as well as
19 the Navajo Nation, and remediation is still under way; and

20 WHEREAS, to Native Americans, water is considered among
21 the most important resources because it nourishes the human
22 body, livestock and all plants and animals and deserves
23 respect; and

24 WHEREAS, New Mexico tribes and pueblos are diligently
25 protecting their water rights through treaties, sovereignty

1 rights, adjudications and litigation; and

2 WHEREAS, today, the world's rivers, seas and oceans are
3 exploited, contaminated and mistreated, causing global alarm;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, people must continue to be aware and take
6 action to protect water sources; and

7 WHEREAS, people must look for alternatives and new
8 innovations to maintain and preserve water quality and
9 safety;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
11 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that water be protected, because water is
12 life, it is sacred and it is alive; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that February 3, 2017 be declared
14 "Water is Life Day" in the senate; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
16 transmitted to the governor, the state engineer, the chair of
17 the appropriate interim committee that studies water and
18 natural resources and New Mexico's congressional
19 delegation.

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