

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 15

2 **53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Joseph Cervantes

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT TO ASSESS THE RISK OF
12 LEAD CONTAMINATION TO NEW MEXICANS AND TESTIFY TO THE
13 APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATURE THAT IS CONCERNED WITH
14 WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCE ISSUES.

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16 WHEREAS, recent national and world attention has been
17 directed at Flint, Michigan, and the state supply of potable
18 water; and

19 WHEREAS, the potable and household water supplied to Flint
20 was eroding the iron water mains, turning water brown; and

21 WHEREAS, because certain water supply lines to homes in
22 Flint are made of lead, corrosive water caused leaching into
23 the water supply, in addition to the iron; and

24 WHEREAS, public officials became aware of lead
25 contamination of water being supplied to and consumed by

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1 residents of Flint, including children, and failed to take
2 prompt action in response to that information; and

3 WHEREAS, lead poisoning is irreversible, causing serious
4 neurological injury, and there is no safe level for lead in a
5 person's bloodstream; and

6 WHEREAS, leaching of lead into drinking water through
7 delivery pipelines is not a Flint, Michigan, problem alone nor
8 a problem strictly associated with public drinking water
9 systems;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
11 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of environment be
12 requested to assess the risk to New Mexicans of lead
13 contamination in drinking water and testify by December 2017 to
14 the appropriate New-Mexico-legislative-council-appointed
15 interim committee that reviews water and natural resources
16 issues; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
18 transmitted to the secretary of environment and to the co-
19 chairs of the New Mexico legislative council.

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