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SENATE MEMORIAL 78

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

INTRODUCED BY
Mimi Stewart

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE AND BERNALILLO COUNTY TO
DEVELOP REGULATIONS TO ADDRESS THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND
ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS ASSOCIATED WITH POTENTIAL OIL AND GAS
DEVELOPMENT IN BERNALILLO COUNTY.

WHEREAS, there is potential for oil and gas development in
Bernalillo county, especially in the western portion of the
county; and

WHEREAS, a special use permit application for oil and gas
drilling near Rio Rancho was submitted by SandRidge energy,
inc., but later withdrawn; and

WHEREAS, although no immediate oil and gas activities in
Bernalillo county are planned, current financial and energy
circumstances indicate that this lack of current activity could
change at any time; and

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1 WHEREAS, any risk of contamination to the water supply in
2 Bernalillo county can be minimized by proper design,
3 installation and completion of wells; and

4 WHEREAS, pollution prevention costs much less than
5 pollution remediation, and in many cases, pollution remediation
6 may be not be technically or economically feasible; and

7 WHEREAS, oil and gas drilling can provide highly valuable
8 hydrogeologic information about potable and non-potable water
9 resources; and

10 WHEREAS, the issues related to oil and gas surface
11 activities include trucking, transfer and disposal of oil and
12 gas, production water and other byproducts associated with
13 exploration and development; water quality; air quality;
14 traffic; noise pollution; road density and disturbance; public
15 access to information; and cost-sharing for inspections and
16 enforcement, and these surface activities are minimally
17 regulated by the oil conservation commission; and

18 WHEREAS, the complex nature of oil and gas exploration and
19 development suggests that input is needed from a
20 multidisciplinary group of technical experts to ensure that
21 potential oil and gas activities are conducted in a manner that
22 benefits all residents of the city of Albuquerque and
23 Bernalillo county while minimizing harm to the environment; and

24 WHEREAS, crafting technically sound oil and gas
25 development regulations will take time and careful

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1 consideration of the facts, as well as consideration of public
2 attitudes; and

3 WHEREAS, recent efforts that have taken place in San
4 Miguel county illustrate the benefits of a proactive,
5 collaborative effort between government, residents and
6 technical experts to control the adverse impacts of oil and gas
7 development; and

8 WHEREAS, taking a proactive position on the issue of oil
9 and gas development in Bernalillo county and having regulations
10 in place before oil and gas exploration and development
11 activities begin will benefit the residents and the environment
12 of Bernalillo county and the city of Albuquerque while allowing
13 for prudent development of these resources;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
15 OF NEW MEXICO that the Albuquerque city council and the board
16 of county commissioners of Bernalillo county be requested to
17 jointly convene a multidisciplinary task force to investigate
18 the potential social, economic and environmental effects of oil
19 and gas development in Bernalillo county; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Albuquerque city council
21 and the board of county commissioners of Bernalillo county be
22 requested to develop and implement appropriate regulations to
23 minimize adverse social, economic and environmental effects of
24 future oil and gas development in Bernalillo county; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

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1 transmitted to the mayor and city council of the city of
2 Albuquerque and the manager and board of county commissioners
3 of Bernalillo county.

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