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SENATE MEMORIAL 88

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

INTRODUCED BY

Bill Tallman

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 WEBSITE.

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

WHEREAS, New Mexico ranks fifth in the United States in
oil reserves and seventh in gas 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 New Mexico's

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1 economy; and

2 WHEREAS, while maximizing the benefits of the oil and gas
3 industry, it is in the public interest to protect New Mexico's
4 environment, including its vital ground water resources; and

5 WHEREAS, it is important to provide the public with
6 comprehensive information regarding the oil and gas industry;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, transparency and accurate information are
9 critical to the functioning of New Mexico's political system;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
11 OF NEW MEXICO that the oil conservation division of the energy,
12 minerals and natural resources department be requested to post
13 the following information on the division's website in an
14 easily accessible manner for each of the years 2008 through
15 2016 and each year thereafter:

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

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

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

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

25 (2) in each category, the number of violations

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1 and the amount of fines collected;

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

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

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

12 E. the amount, purpose and type of and the well
13 locations related to expenditures from the oil and gas
14 reclamation fund;

15 F. the volumes of natural gas leaked, vented and
16 flared per well, including well identification number, operator
17 name and mineral ownership, as well as a list of the top
18 twenty-five operators venting and the top twenty-five operators
19 flaring; and

20 G. all final gas capture plans submitted to the oil
21 conservation division by oil and gas operators; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the oil conservation division
23 of the energy, minerals and natural resources department be
24 requested to present this information, by November 1, 2017, for
25 years 2008 through 2016, with recommendations on what could

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1 help the division address public concerns about the impact of
2 drilling on ground water, to the governor and to the
3 appropriate legislative interim committees; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
5 transmitted to the oil conservation division of the energy,
6 minerals and natural resources department, the governor, the
7 president pro tempore of the senate and the speaker of the
8 house of representatives.

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