

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING FEBRUARY 2, 2018 "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 by  
7 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 is essential to New Mexico's  
23 agricultural regions; and

24 WHEREAS, water has a special meaning to Native  
25 Americans, and it is recognized as being sacred and the

1 essence of all life; and

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

4 WHEREAS, on the Navajo reservation, the community of  
5 Shiprock and surrounding areas rely on the water from the  
6 San Juan and Animas rivers for irrigation; and

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

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

17 WHEREAS, to New Mexicans, water is considered among the  
18 most important resources because it nourishes the human body,  
19 livestock and all plants and animals and deserves respect;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, New Mexico tribes and pueblos are diligently  
22 protecting their water rights through treaties, sovereignty  
23 rights, adjudications and litigation; and

24 WHEREAS, people must continue to be aware and take  
25 action to protect water sources; and

1           WHEREAS, people must look for alternatives and new  
2 innovations to maintain and preserve water quality and  
3 safety;

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

7           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that February 2, 2018 be declared  
8 "Water is Life Day" in the senate; and

9           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
10 transmitted to the governor, the state engineer, the chair  
11 of the appropriate interim committee that studies water and  
12 natural resources and New Mexico's congressional  
13 delegation.

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