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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 1

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

INTRODUCED BY

Joseph L. Sanchez

A JOINT MEMORIAL

RAISING AWARENESS OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF CERTIFIED WATER AND
WASTEWATER OPERATORS TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND URGING THE
LEGISLATURE TO ELEVATE CERTIFIED WATER AND WASTEWATER OPERATORS
TO ESSENTIAL WORKERS AND FUND A STUDY ON PROVIDING CERTIFIED
WATER AND WASTEWATER OPERATORS WITH STATE HEALTH INSURANCE AND
RETIREMENT BENEFITS.

WHEREAS, certified water and wastewater operators provide
essential services in the state by helping maintain safe and
reliable sources of drinking water and treating wastewater for
release back into the environment; and

WHEREAS, drinking water contains many substances that can
be harmful to human health if not treated properly, including
germs, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, lead and arsenic;
and

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1 WHEREAS, the treatment of wastewater is important in
2 maintaining the health of rivers, lakes and other bodies of
3 water, protecting aquatic life and for reuse for agriculture;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, clean water is critical for a community's
6 recreational activities and economic development; and

7 WHEREAS, certified water and wastewater operators conduct
8 operations and provide services that are essential to the
9 continued operation of critical infrastructure;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
11 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislature support legislation to
12 elevate certified water and wastewater operators to essential
13 workers and fund a study to add certified water and wastewater
14 operators to state health insurance and retirement benefit
15 programs; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the members of the legislature.