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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 68

42ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 1996

INTRODUCED BY

JOHN PINTO

A JOINT MEMORIAL

OPPOSING ANY TRANSFER OF THE FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BRANCH OF SYSTEMS OF THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS FROM ALBUQUERQUE TO THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN DENVER, COLORADO.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the treaty of 1868 between the United States and the Navajo nation, the United States congress in its appropriations of funds is required to allocate adequate funds to provide services in education, health, resources and social services to the Navajo people; and

WHEREAS, the United States congress and the United States department of the interior are required, pursuant to federal law, to have adequate consultation with Indian tribes before modifying, amending or transforming any appropriations for Indian programs; and

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Underscored material = new
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1 WHEREAS, the United States government has broken and
2 continuously failed to fulfill its obligations as set forth in
3 treaties between Indian tribes and the United States government,
4 a clear indication the federal government wants to eliminate
5 Indian programs; and

6 WHEREAS, the officials of the department of the interior's
7 bureau of Indian affairs recently informed the employees of the
8 Albuquerque area office of the branch of systems of the bureau
9 of Indian affairs that plans are being developed to transfer the
10 functions and responsibilities of the branch of systems in
11 Albuquerque to the bureau of mines in Denver; and

12 WHEREAS, the bureau of Indian affairs' Albuquerque office
13 supports the bureau of Indian affairs' version of the federal
14 finance system, which is an automated accounting system that
15 provides services to southwestern Indian tribes, including the
16 Navajo nation, by maintaining custom software, including the
17 interface and ancillary systems to provide internal management
18 reports, and executing jobs for nightly, weekly and annual
19 closings; and

20 WHEREAS, the transfer of the functions and responsibilities
21 of the branch of systems to any federal government agency other
22 than the bureau of Indian affairs by the department of the
23 interior directly contradicts and fails to recognize the
24 recommendations formulated by the joint tribal/bureau of Indian
25 affairs/department of the interior task force on bureau of

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1 Indian affairs reorganization including, but not limited to, the
2 employment of Indian individuals. The unjust attempt to
3 transfer the functions and responsibilities of the bureau of
4 Indian affairs through any interagency agreement or order by the
5 secretary of the interior to the United States geological survey
6 is saving jobs for non-Indians in Denver at the expense of
7 Indian employees in Albuquerque;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it oppose any transfer of the functions
10 and responsibilities of the branch of systems of the bureau of
11 Indian affairs from Albuquerque to the United States geological
12 survey in Denver; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States government be
14 requested to immediately stop the transfer of any bureau of
15 Indian affairs' functions, responsibilities and resources to
16 other federal agencies and request that the Indian tribes
17 affected by such transfer be contacted and present their input
18 and recommendations in a timely manner prior to initiating any
19 additional transfer of bureau of Indian affairs' functions,
20 responsibilities and resources that directly impact Indian
21 tribes; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the United States congress, the president of the
24 United States and the secretary of the interior.

1 FORTY- SECOND LEGI SLATURE
2 SECOND SESSI ON, 1996

3
4
5 February 4, 1996

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7 Mr. President:

8
9 Your INDIAN & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, to whom
10 has been referred

11
12 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 68

13
14 has had it under consideration and reports same with
15 recommendation that it DO PASS.

16
17 Respectfully submitted,

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21 _____
22 John Pinto, Chairman
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Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____

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[bracketed material] = delete

(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

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Date _____

The roll call vote was 7 For 0 Against

Yes: 7

No: 0

Excused: Maes

Absent: None

SJ068IC1

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