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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 9

**42ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
1996**

**INTRODUCED BY
JOHN PINTO**

A JOINT MEMORIAL

**IN SUPPORT OF THE NAVAJO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY AND ITS
REQUEST FOR FEDERAL FUNDING TO COMPLETE THE NAVAJO INDIAN
IRRIGATION PROJECT.**

**WHEREAS, the Navajo agricultural products industry, a
farming and agribusiness enterprise located south of Farmington,
was formed in 1970 to develop the Navajo nation's economy; and**

**WHEREAS, the Navajo agricultural products industry's
customers include major food companies in the United States and
internationally, and their "Navajo Pride" brand has gained
excellent consumer acceptance as a high quality product; and**

**WHEREAS, the Navajo agricultural products industry is a
diverse, profitable business enterprise that directly
contributes over thirty-five million dollars (\$35,000,000)**

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1 annually to the regional economy, and the Navajo agricultural
2 products industry-related activities employ four hundred full-
3 time employees annually and one thousand two hundred seasonal
4 employees; and

5 WHEREAS, the Navajo agricultural products industry's future
6 projects include continued crop diversification and a food
7 processing plant that would include modern storage and
8 processing facilities to accommodate customer packaging
9 preferences and peak market demands; and

10 WHEREAS, the Navajo agricultural products industry relies
11 on water provided by the Navajo Indian irrigation project to
12 cultivate seventy thousand acres, but since the overall
13 completion schedule for the project has been delayed by at least
14 fifteen years, the Navajo agricultural products industry is
15 unable to cultivate its remaining forty thousand acres; and

16 WHEREAS, delay of the irrigation project would have a
17 tragic, negative impact on the Navajo agricultural products
18 industry and the Navajo nation's plans for a self-sustaining
19 economy in northwestern New Mexico; and

20 WHEREAS, the management board of the Navajo agricultural
21 products industry has requested assistance and support from the
22 United States congress and the president of the United States in
23 securing funding for the Navajo Indian irrigation project and
24 timely completion of the project;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE

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1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it hereby applaud and support the
2 Navajo agricultural products industry's work and the Navajo
3 nation's efforts to provide a self-sustaining economy in
4 northwestern New Mexico; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature urge the United
6 States congress and the president of the United States to
7 appropriate forty-six million five hundred thousand dollars
8 (\$46,500,000) in the budget for fiscal year 1997 to continue
9 block 8 construction and begin construction of the Ojo reservoir
10 dam and pump stations of the Navajo Indian irrigation project
11 and subsequent annual appropriations for timely completion of
12 the project; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature request from
14 the United States congress and the president of the United
15 States a supplemental appropriation of seven million dollars
16 (\$7,000,000) for the budget for fiscal year 1997 the canal
17 operation and maintenance; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature request from
19 the United States congress and the president of the United
20 States a supplemental appropriation of two million dollars
21 (\$2,000,000) for the fiscal year 1996 budget for the frozen
22 potato processing facilities infrastructure from the economic
23 development administration of the United States department of
24 commerce; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be

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1 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation, the
2 president of the United States, the Navajo agricultural products
3 industry management board of directors, the president of the
4 Navajo nation and the Navajo nation council.

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