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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 54

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999

INTRODUCED BY

Phillip Griego

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT TO REPORT TO THE
APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL ON UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK PROBLEMS AND PROGRAMS.

WHEREAS, congress directed the United States
environmental protection agency to establish regulatory
programs that would prevent, detect and clean up releases from
underground storage tank systems containing petroleum or
hazardous substances; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, the environmental protection agency
established a number of corrective action requirements for
underground storage tank systems to clean up soil and ground
water as needed to protect human health and the environment;
and

WHEREAS, on November 14, 1997, the environmental

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1 protection agency issued an order that owners and operators of
2 underground storage tanks had until December 22, 1998 to
3 upgrade, replace or close underground storage tank systems
4 that do not meet the environmental protection agency's
5 technical standards for protection against spills, overfills
6 and corrosion; and

7 WHEREAS, it appears that many of the family owned gas
8 stations have closed in rural areas in New Mexico due to
9 leaking underground storage tanks; and

10 WHEREAS, such closures may have a negative economic
11 impact in rural New Mexico and may cause residents in rural
12 areas to travel farther for petroleum products; and

13 WHEREAS, such closures may be due to the high cost of
14 replacing underground storage tank systems and complying with
15 new regulations;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
17 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of environment provide
18 to the appropriate committee directed by the New Mexico
19 legislative council, by December 31, 1999, the number of gas
20 stations that were closed since 1988 due to leaking
21 underground storage tanks; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of environment
23 provide to the appropriate committee directed by the New
24 Mexico legislative council the types of federal or state
25 programs available to assist owners and operators of

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1 underground storage tank systems to comply with regulations;
2 and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
4 transmitted to the secretary of environment and to the New
5 Mexico legislative council.

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1 FORTY- FOURTH LEGISLATURE

2 FIRST SESSION, 1999

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5 March 4, 1999

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7 Mr. President:

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9 Your CONSERVATION COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred

10
11 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 54

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

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16 Respectfully submitted,

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22 _____
23 Fernando R. Macias, Chairman

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Adopted _____ Not

Adopted _____

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(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 6 For 0 Against

Yes: 6

No: None

Excused: Eisenstadt, Sanchez, Vernon, Rodarte

Absent: None

SJ054C01

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