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SENATE MEMORIAL 29

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

INTRODUCED BY

Carroll Leavell

A MEMORIAL

URGING THE LABOR DEPARTMENT, THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT,
THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL
RESOURCES DEPARTMENT TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MITIGATE THE
DEVASTATING IMPACT OF LOW OIL PRICES ON NEW MEXICO'S OIL
PRODUCTION AND SERVICING BUSINESSES AND THE WORKERS AND THEIR
FAMILIES AFFECTED.

WHEREAS, the price of oil has plummeted more than fifty
percent in the last two years, with posted prices of west
Texas intermediate crude oil reaching lows of ten dollars
(\$10.00) per barrel in recent months, which is lower than in
1986 when oil prices last plunged, and this has had a
devastating impact on businesses in the oil production and oil
services business sector in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, in the Permian basin in Lea, Eddy and Chaves

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1 counties, many oil and oil-related businesses have had to lay
2 off hundreds of workers either temporarily or permanently and
3 to provide only part-time or occasional employment for other
4 workers because of the impact of low oil prices on their
5 businesses;

6 WHEREAS, unemployment in southeastern New Mexico
7 increased enormously in 1998, with Chaves county more than
8 doubling its unemployment in that period and Lea county rising
9 nearly eighty percent, illustrating the devastating impact in
10 that area of the state resulting in great part from the low
11 oil prices and the importance of the oil industry in that part
12 of the state; and

13 WHEREAS, it is extremely important for the state agencies
14 that provide support to displaced workers and their needy
15 families to make a concerted effort to use all available
16 programs to provide help to workers and their families in
17 these extremely difficult circumstances;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
19 OF NEW MEXICO that the appropriate state agencies be urged to
20 provide assistance to the oil production and servicing
21 industry and its displaced workers and their families in New
22 Mexico, who must absorb the devastating impacts from low oil
23 prices as follows:

24 A. the labor department recognize the impact on
25 workers in the oil industry and address the displacement of

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1 those workers by providing all necessary available support,
2 staffing and retraining or other job program assistance to
3 meet the crisis;

4 B. the human services department and the
5 department of health do everything possible to alert staff to
6 the problems in the oil industry in New Mexico resulting from
7 workers losing jobs and families struggling without sufficient
8 wages or health care coverage and to provide staff and
9 information as necessary to enable those workers and their
10 families to take advantage of all available health and social
11 services programs; and

12 C. that the energy, minerals and natural resources
13 department be as business-friendly as possible to oil and gas
14 producers and their contractors working in New Mexico and make
15 every effort under current law to encourage and support the
16 production of the state's natural resources and put the state
17 back in the business of expanding the labor force; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the secretary of labor, the secretary of human
20 services, the secretary of health and the secretary of energy,
21 minerals and natural resources.

1 FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

2 FIRST SESSION, 1999

3
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5 March 11, 1999

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7 Mr. President:

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9 Your CONSERVATION COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred

10
11 SENATE MEMORIAL 29

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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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23 Fernando R. Macias, Chairman
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Adopted _____ Not

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(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 7 For 0 Against

Yes: 7

No: None

Excused: Eisenstadt, Lyons, Sanchez

Absent: None

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