

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022

INTRODUCED BY

DISCUSSION DRAFT

FOR THE WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

URGING NEW MEXICO'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO TAKE INTO
CONSIDERATION THE IMPACT OF DROUGHT WHEN SETTING FEDERAL
AGRICULTURAL POLICY.

WHEREAS, the United States congress enacts federal
agricultural policy through passage of the "farm bill"; and

WHEREAS, the farm bill governs nationwide programs related
to farming, food and nutrition and rural communities; and

WHEREAS, the agricultural industry in New Mexico has
annual cash receipts of nearly three billion five hundred
million dollars (\$3,500,000,000) and supports more than twenty-
three thousand jobs in the state; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico has been in a state of drought for the
past twenty years, and dry conditions are predicted to continue
into the future; and

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1 WHEREAS, water agencies serving domestic, irrigation and
2 industrial needs across the state are contending with the
3 reality of a decreased water supply due to persistent drought;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, farming and ranching depend on a consistent water
6 supply to support crops and livestock; and

7 WHEREAS, prolonged drought, decreased snow pack and
8 decreased precipitation affect the flow of rivers and the
9 availability of a consistent water supply for farming and
10 ranching; and

11 WHEREAS, the depletion of aquifers has affected ranching
12 practices;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
14 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that New Mexico's congressional delegation
15 be urged to take into consideration the impact of drought when
16 setting federal agricultural policy; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
18 transmitted to the members of New Mexico's congressional
19 delegation.