

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 72

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 200

INTRODUCED BY

Joe Stell

A JOINT MEMORIAL

OPPOSING THE WITHDRAWAL OF BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LANDS TO
MINERAL ENTRY IN EDDY COUNTY WITHOUT COMPENSATION TO THE
STATE, EDDY COUNTY AND NEW MEXICO SCHOOLS.

WHEREAS, the bureau of land management has initiated the
withdrawal of approximately eight thousand four hundred
seventy acres of federal surface and minerals and four
hundred eighty acres of federal minerals underlying private
surface in Eddy county, New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the federal lands and minerals,
approximately eight thousand two hundred acres of New Mexico
state lands and mineral estate will become subject to
withdrawal if they are acquired by the federal government;
and

WHEREAS, the withdrawal of mineral production has both a
direct and indirect impact on the economies of Eddy county
and the state; and

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1 WHEREAS, New Mexico depends on federal- and state-owned
2 mineral wealth to directly fund a significant portion of the
3 statewide public school funding formula, and both the state
4 and Eddy county depend on gross receipts and other tax
5 revenue from mineral production; and

6 WHEREAS, in addition to these direct losses, the state
7 and Eddy county will also lose the multiplier effect of
8 mineral production, which could significantly impair economic
9 growth potential in the southeast region of the state; and

10 WHEREAS, because of the slump in oil and gas production
11 over the last couple of years, the state's revenues have not
12 been able to keep up with its needs, particularly in public
13 school funding, and the potential loss of federal and state
14 royalties will exacerbate the state's lackluster revenue
15 growth;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
17 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it oppose the contemplated
18 withdrawals unless they are conditioned upon adequate
19 compensation to the state, affected local governments and
20 public schools through either direct payments or an acre-for-
21 acre exchange of mineral-bearing lands; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commissioner of public
23 lands not finalize any negotiations for land trades or sales
24 in Eddy county until the federal government agrees to
25 compensate the state, local governments and public schools
for the loss of mineral production or agrees to provide
mineral- producing land; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
2 transmitted to the commissioner of public lands, the
3 secretary of the interior, the director of the bureau of land
4 management and the New Mexico congressional delegation.

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