

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 77

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION,
2000**

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH A
TASK FORCE TO CONDUCT CONSENSUS PLANNING ON WATER BANKING
LEGISLATION.

WHEREAS, the surface waters of nearly all stream systems
of the state are fully appropriated and their underlying
aquifers are being rapidly depleted; and

WHEREAS, continued growth of the population in New
Mexico will place more demands on these already limited water
supplies; and

WHEREAS, traditional agricultural water users are being
threatened by increasing pressure to sell their water rights
to municipal and industrial users; and

WHEREAS, there are no incentives in current New Mexico
law for agricultural users to invest in the technology
necessary to reduce consumptive water use; and

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1 WHEREAS, current law does not provide the flexibility
2 necessary to share water among different users for different
3 beneficial uses; and

4 WHEREAS, instituting a consensus water banking plan may
5 result in better management of the waters of the state while
6 addressing concerns of traditional agricultural users;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
8 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council
9 be asked to establish a task force to conduct consensus
10 planning on water banking and to report its findings to the
11 appropriate interim committee by November 1, 2000; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force employ the
13 western governors' association's enlibra negotiation process
14 and that representatives of state political subdivisions,
15 federal agencies, Indian nations, tribes and pueblos and
16 public interest organizations concerned with the future of
17 water use in New Mexico be invited to participate in the
18 process; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
20 transmitted to the New Mexico legislative council.