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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 51
45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001
INTRODUCED BY
Jeannette Wallace

A JOINT MEMORIAL
REQUESTING THE LEGISLATURE TO ASSIGN AN INTERIM COMMITTEE TO
REVIEW THE STATUTES AND CLARIFY LINES OF AUTHORITY REGARDING
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RESPONSE TO AND COOPERATION IN EMERGENCY OR
DISASTER SITUATIONS.

WHEREAS, the Cerro Grande fire, the largest wildfire in
New Mexico's recorded history, had a great impact upon the
city and county of Los Alamos, Los Alamos national laboratory,
the Pueblos of San Ildefonso and Santa Clara, the state of New
Mexico, the United States army corps of engineers, the bureau
of Indian affairs, the forest service and other agencies of
local, state and federal government; and

WHEREAS, the response to, and recovery from, the fire
identified weaknesses in statutory authority to respond to the
disaster by federal, state, tribal and local government

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1 responders; and

2 WHEREAS, evacuation authority and mutual aid response
3 were identified as areas that needed clarification to permit a
4 more rapid cooperative and coordinated intergovernmental
5 response; and

6 WHEREAS, in the event of a disaster or emergency
7 requiring a large-scale, coordinated response involving
8 numerous agencies and governments, the lines of authority need
9 to be more clearly drawn; and

10 WHEREAS, in large-scale emergency situations, agency and
11 government resources need to be mobilized and used efficiently
12 to effectively preserve life and property; and

13 WHEREAS, statutory authority to locate, acquire,
14 transport and use all resources needed at times of emergency
15 or disaster must be modified to streamline the mobilization
16 process so that all intergovernmental efforts are coordinated
17 to make the most effective use of all resources available;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that an appropriate interim committee be
20 assigned to take testimony from agencies of the federal,
21 state, tribal and local governments regarding the way to
22 improve access to resources, coordination between governmental
23 and other emergency management and disaster relief agencies
24 and clarification of the lines of authority; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the law be reviewed by that

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1 interim committee to identify amendments that are needed in
2 state law to facilitate cooperation among all responders to an
3 emergency situation or a disaster.

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