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**SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 54**  
**45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001**  
**INTRODUCED BY**  
**Manny M. Aragon**

**A JOINT MEMORIAL**  
**REQUESTING THAT NEW MEXICO BE ALLOWED TO KEEP THE SAME**  
**PERCENTAGE OF ITS FEDERAL OIL AND GAS ROYALTIES AS ALASKA.**

**WHEREAS, the states of New Mexico and Alaska both contain large amounts of federal land and both produce large amounts of oil and gas from their federal lands; and**

**WHEREAS, under the federal Mineral Leasing Act, Alaska is allowed to keep ninety percent of all oil and gas royalties produced from federal lands within its borders while New Mexico is allowed to keep only fifty percent of its federal oil and gas royalties; and**

**WHEREAS, the annual per capita personal income in Alaska is twenty-eight thousand five hundred twenty-three dollars (\$28,523) and in New Mexico it is only twenty-two thousand**

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1 sixty-three dollars (\$22,063); and

2 WHEREAS, New Mexico leads the nation in the percentage of  
3 its population living in poverty while Alaska is forty-fifth;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Alaska has no sales or gross receipts tax and has  
6 no income tax while New Mexico is forced to enact both taxes to  
7 raise the necessary revenue with which to provide necessities  
8 for its citizens; and

9 WHEREAS, if New Mexico were allowed to keep ninety percent  
10 of its federal oil and gas royalties, it would mean over two  
11 hundred fifty million dollars (\$250,000,000) in additional  
12 revenue this fiscal year; and

13 WHEREAS, the inequitable and disproportionate allocation  
14 of federal oil and gas royalties is simply not fair to New  
15 Mexico and its citizens;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
17 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the United States congress be  
18 requested to amend the federal Mineral Leasing Act so that New  
19 Mexico is allowed to retain the same percentage of its oil and  
20 gas royalties as Alaska; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
22 transmitted to the president of the United States, the  
23 secretary of the interior and each member of New Mexico's  
24 congressional delegation.

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