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HOUSE MEMORIAL 37

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002

INTRODUCED BY

James R. Madalena

A MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THE STATE TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC FROM DETERIORATED
AND DANGEROUS GAS OR HAZARDOUS LIQUID PIPELINES AND REQUESTING
THE PIPELINE SAFETY BUREAU OF THE PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION
TO APPLY FOR GRANTS FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO
AGGRESSIVELY CARRY OUT A PIPELINE SAFETY PROGRAM AND TO
IDENTIFY AND COMPEL CORRECTION OF DEFECTS IN INTERSTATE GAS OR
INTERSTATE HAZARDOUS LIQUID PIPELINE FACILITIES.**

**WHEREAS, gas and hazardous liquid pipelines can be found
crossing New Mexico in almost all areas of the state; and**

**WHEREAS, many of these pipelines are old and lack
physical integrity; and**

**WHEREAS, New Mexico has already suffered twelve deaths
from one family due to the explosion of an old and poorly
maintained natural gas pipeline; and**

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1 WHEREAS, pipelines carrying many combustible materials
2 course the state from every corner, underlying senior citizen
3 center parking lots, passing close to school playgrounds and
4 running within feet of heavily traveled roads, family homes
5 and grazing land, from Jal to Farmington, from Carlsbad to
6 Gila, from Clayton to Gallup and from the four corners to El
7 Paso, across tribal lands, through rural communities that are
8 long distances from medical services and through heavily
9 populated urban and suburban areas; and

10 WHEREAS, the costs to repair or replace sections of
11 damaged or deteriorated pipeline are low when compared to the
12 revenue generated by the companies who own and operate the
13 pipelines and very low when compared to the devastation to
14 families who lose family members and property in a pipeline
15 explosion; and

16 WHEREAS, many feet of pipeline remain in deteriorated or
17 unsafe condition, and it only takes a small area of weakness
18 in a pipeline to cause catastrophic devastation; and

19 WHEREAS, the federal office of pipeline safety grants
20 states funding and the authority to carry out a pipeline
21 safety program and to act as an agent of the federal secretary
22 of transportation on interstate gas or hazardous liquid
23 pipeline facilities issues; and

24 WHEREAS, the pipeline safety bureau of the public
25 regulation commission is charged with the regulation and

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1 oversight of intrastate pipelines and protection of the safety
2 of residents and visitors in New Mexico from damaged or
3 deteriorated pipelines, but many of the pipelines in New
4 Mexico are interstate pipelines; and

5 WHEREAS, with help from federal funds, the pipeline
6 safety bureau of the public regulation commission could
7 establish an aggressive pipeline safety program to identify
8 and compel correction of defects in both intrastate and
9 interstate gas or hazardous liquid pipelines;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
11 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the pipeline
12 safety bureau of the public regulation commission be requested
13 to apply for and obtain funding from the federal office of
14 pipeline safety in the department of transportation and to
15 become authorized to carry out a safety program on interstate
16 gas pipeline facilities or on interstate hazardous liquid
17 pipeline facilities and to become an agent of the federal
18 secretary of transportation in regard to interstate gas and
19 hazardous liquid pipeline facilities issues; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the pipeline safety bureau of
21 the public regulation commission work to protect the safety of
22 New Mexico residents and visitors by developing a rigorous
23 pipeline safety program and taking action to prevent future
24 pipeline accidents; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

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1 transmitted to the public regulation commission and the
2 pipeline safety bureau of the public regulation commission.

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