

1 HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 48

2 **48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE STATE ENGINEER TO EVALUATE AND MAKE
12 RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO WATER DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
13 AUTHORITY FOR MUNICIPALITIES, COUNTIES, SCHOOL DISTRICTS, STATE
14 UNIVERSITIES, MEMBER-OWNED COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS, SPECIAL
15 WATER USERS ASSOCIATIONS AND REGULATED PUBLIC WATER AND
16 ELECTRIC UTILITIES.

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18 WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico wishes to conserve and
19 preserve its water supplies for use by its residents; and

20 WHEREAS, the state must consider implications of
21 interstate commerce as it strives to preserve and protect its
22 precious water supplies; and

23 WHEREAS, it is recognized by the state of New Mexico that
24 the public welfare of the state and conservation of water
25 within the state are promoted by allowing municipalities,

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1 counties, school districts, state universities, member-owned
2 community water systems, special water users associations and
3 public utilities supplying water to municipalities or counties
4 to acquire and hold water rights for a forty-year water
5 development period, provided that they can show reasonably
6 projected needs within forty years; and

7 WHEREAS, it is recognized that the provision of water by
8 all public water utilities that are regulated by the public
9 regulation commission is essential to the public health and
10 welfare and the conservation of water within the state; and

11 WHEREAS, electric generation facilities, which use water
12 as a part of the generation process, are essential to the
13 public health and welfare of the residents of the state and
14 need the ability to plan for additional generation facilities
15 to provide power to future generations of New Mexico residents;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, there have been proposals to extend the forty-
18 year planning period to a one-hundred-year period for water
19 planning purposes for water used by municipalities and other
20 entities; and

21 WHEREAS, it is important to the planning for the future of
22 New Mexico and its residents that the state engineer convene
23 representative stakeholders to inform the state engineer of
24 their unique water planning needs for the purpose of aiding the
25 development of a set of recommendations to address the issues

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1 stated above;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that, in order to conserve, preserve and
4 develop the state's precious water supplies to effectively plan
5 for the future, the state engineer be requested to convene
6 representative stakeholders for the purpose of informing and
7 making recommendations to the state engineer relating to
8 planning authority that should be allowed to municipalities,
9 counties, school districts, state universities, member-owned
10 community water systems, special water users associations and
11 regulated water and electric public utilities; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that interstate commerce
13 limitations on the state's ability to conserve the state's
14 water supplies be included in the evaluation; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state engineer report the
16 state engineer's recommendations to the appropriate interim
17 legislative committee by August 1, 2007; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the governor and the state engineer.

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