

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO DIRECT THE  
3 APPROPRIATE INTERIM LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE TO STUDY POSSIBLE  
4 REGULATION OF THE PROPANE GAS INDUSTRY BY THE PUBLIC  
5 REGULATION COMMISSION.

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7 WHEREAS, rising fuel costs across the country are of  
8 increasing concern to the public, especially low-income  
9 persons in rural areas of New Mexico; and

10 WHEREAS, many low-income persons in the rural areas  
11 depend on propane gas as an energy source to heat their homes  
12 in the winter; and

13 WHEREAS, it is necessary that those New Mexicans who are  
14 most vulnerable to the high costs of fuel be protected; and

15 WHEREAS, the propane gas industry and the rates charged  
16 for propane gas services are not currently regulated by the  
17 public regulation commission; and

18 WHEREAS, including the propane gas industry under the  
19 Public Utility Act would provide the public regulation  
20 commission with authority over entities manufacturing,  
21 storing, selling, or distributing propane gas in enclosed  
22 containers or tank trucks for use by consumers, except  
23 consumers who receive their supply through any pipeline  
24 system operating under municipal authority; and

25 WHEREAS, oversight of the propane gas industry by the

1 public regulation commission would ensure that New Mexicans,  
2 particularly low-income New Mexicans, are paying fair prices  
3 for propane gas;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
5 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council  
6 be requested to direct the appropriate interim legislative  
7 committee to study the propane gas industry; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include a review  
9 of the following:

10 A. the relationship between the low income home  
11 energy assistance program and the price of propane;

12 B. current regulation of propane installations by  
13 the construction industries division of the regulation and  
14 licensing department; and

15 C. liability issues associated with the propane  
16 industry; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appropriate interim  
18 legislative committee be directed to hold a hearing on the  
19 issue by November 1, 2008; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
21 transmitted to the New Mexico legislative council and the  
22 chair of the public regulation commission. \_\_\_\_\_

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