

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

HOUSE MEMORIAL 67

**50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011**

INTRODUCED BY

Ray Begaye

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO FUND THE CONSTRUCTION  
OF THE NAVAJO INDIAN IRRIGATION PROJECT.

WHEREAS, in 1850, the United States senate ratified a  
treaty with the Navajo Nation that committed the United States  
to legislate and act so as to secure the permanent prosperity  
and happiness of the Navajo people; and

WHEREAS, in 1868, the United States senate ratified a  
second treaty with the Navajo Nation that recognized the  
importance of water and agriculture to the self-sufficiency of  
the Navajo people; and

WHEREAS, after ten years of intense negotiations among the  
United States, the state of New Mexico and the Navajo Nation,  
in 1962, congress enacted Navajo Indian irrigation project  
legislation to fulfill, in part, the United States treaty

.186613.1

underscoring material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 obligations in regard to water supplies and a farming operation  
2 for the Navajo Nation; and

3 WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation also gave valuable concessions  
4 in exchange for the Navajo Indian irrigation project, allowing  
5 water from the San Juan basin, to which the Navajo had valid  
6 claims, to be transported to the Rio Grande basin, for the  
7 substantial benefit of non-Navajos and that companion project,  
8 the San Juan-Chama project, was completed and the residents and  
9 businesses of the Rio Grande basin continue to enjoy the  
10 benefits of the bargain; and

11 WHEREAS, the 1962 act reflected the agreement among the  
12 United States, the state of New Mexico and the Navajo Nation,  
13 and it obligated the United States to construct and maintain  
14 over one hundred ten thousand acres of farms for the benefit of  
15 the Navajo people; and

16 WHEREAS, the Navajo Indian irrigation project was  
17 originally estimated to be completed in about twelve years,  
18 contemporaneously with the San Juan-Chama project, but  
19 forty-nine years later, only approximately eighty thousand  
20 acres of the promised over one hundred ten thousand acres have  
21 been completed; and

22 WHEREAS, in 1970, Navajo agricultural products industry, a  
23 farming and agribusiness enterprise located south of  
24 Farmington, was established to develop the Navajo Nation's  
25 economy in northwest New Mexico by farming the Navajo Indian

.186613.1

underscored material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 irrigation project lands and engaging in value-added  
2 agricultural activities; and

3 WHEREAS, Navajo agricultural products industry's customers  
4 include major food companies in the United States and  
5 internationally, and its "Navajo pride" brand has gained  
6 excellent consumer acceptance as a high-quality product; and

7 WHEREAS, Navajo agricultural products industry is a  
8 diverse, profitable business enterprise that directly  
9 contributes over thirty-five million dollars (\$35,000,000)  
10 annually to the regional economy, and Navajo agricultural  
11 products industry-related activities employ four hundred  
12 full-time employees annually and one thousand two hundred  
13 seasonal employees; and

14 WHEREAS, Navajo agricultural products industry's future  
15 projects include continued crop diversification and a food  
16 processing plant that would include modern storage and  
17 processing facilities to accommodate customer packaging  
18 preferences and peak market demands with concomitant benefits  
19 to the Four Corners economy; and

20 WHEREAS, Navajo agricultural products industry relies on  
21 water provided by the Navajo Indian irrigation project to  
22 cultivate about eighty thousand acres, but because the overall  
23 completion schedule for the project has been delayed by at  
24 least twenty-five years, Navajo agricultural products industry  
25 is unable to cultivate its remaining thirty thousand acres; and

.186613.1

1 WHEREAS, the continued delay in the completion of the  
2 Navajo Indian irrigation project is causing severe economic and  
3 administrative impacts on Navajo agricultural products  
4 industry, the Navajo people and the Navajo Nation's plans for a  
5 self-sustaining economy in northwestern New Mexico; and

6 WHEREAS, the management board of Navajo agricultural  
7 products industry has requested assistance and support from the  
8 United States congress and the president of the United States  
9 in securing adequate funding for Navajo Indian irrigation  
10 project to ensure the prompt completion of the project;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
12 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it urge the  
13 United States congress and the president of the United States  
14 to appropriate twenty-six million dollars (\$26,000,000) in the  
15 fiscal year 2012 budget for the construction of block 9 of the  
16 Navajo Indian irrigation project, and subsequent annual  
17 appropriations for the prompt completion of blocks 9, 10 and 11  
18 of the Navajo Indian irrigation project; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
20 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation, the  
21 speaker of the United States house of representatives and the  
22 president of the United States.