

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 20

2 **50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Eric G. Griego

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO ASSIGN TO THE
12 APPROPRIATE LEGISLATIVE INTERIM COMMITTEE THE TASK OF INQUIRING
13 INTO THE PLANNING FOR AND THE RESPONSE TO THE NATURAL GAS
14 OUTAGE OF FEBRUARY 2011.

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16 WHEREAS, on February 3, 2011, hours after temperatures
17 throughout New Mexico plummeted to record lows, the natural gas
18 supply to tens of thousands of New Mexico homes and businesses
19 was abruptly discontinued; and

20 WHEREAS, while the cause of the interruption may have been
21 beyond the state's or the New Mexico gas company's control, the
22 responsibility for planning for and responding to the crisis
23 rests squarely with state and local agencies and the gas
24 company; and

25 WHEREAS, New Mexicans received conflicting, confusing and

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1 potentially dangerous information during the height of the
2 crisis about the timetable for restoring service, whether it
3 was better to relight gas appliances on their own or wait for
4 New Mexico gas company workers to do that task, how state
5 offers of assistance to the New Mexico gas company were
6 received, how individual claims should be filed with the New
7 Mexico gas company and other issues; and

8 WHEREAS, it is wholly unacceptable that communication and
9 coordination prior to and during the gas outage between the New
10 Mexico gas company and state and local government leaders and
11 emergency responders was not better and had the effect of
12 prolonging the crisis; and

13 WHEREAS, it is in the state's interest to ensure that, to
14 the extent possible, crises such as the natural gas outage are
15 prevented, that the damage is minimized by a well-coordinated
16 and robust response and that the recovery from such a crisis is
17 efficient;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council be
20 requested to direct the appropriate legislative interim
21 committee to inquire into the planning for and response to the
22 natural gas outage of February 2011 by various state and local
23 agencies and the New Mexico gas company; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
25 delivered to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative

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