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SENATE MEMORIAL 30

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

INTRODUCED BY

Carlos R. Cisneros

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO INVESTIGATE HOW AND WHY NEW MEXICO CONSUMERS LOST NATURAL GAS SERVICE AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO PREVENT SUCH LOSS OF SERVICE IN THE FUTURE.

WHEREAS, nearly thirty thousand residents of the state lost access to natural gas service in early February of 2011; and

WHEREAS, this loss of service endangered lives during a period of record low temperatures in New Mexico and has resulted in millions of dollars worth of damage due to burst water pipes and loss of business; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico gas company was unable to import enough natural gas to meet demand due to the shutdown of several compressors on the transmission lines in Texas; and

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1           WHEREAS, the public regulation commission is granted sole  
2 and exclusive power to regulate public utilities and natural  
3 gas transmission lines in the state; and

4           WHEREAS, the commission is authorized to regulate the  
5 transportation of natural gas as may be necessary to safeguard  
6 deliverability and operational efficiency and to prevent undue  
7 hardship and anticompetitive conduct by a public utility; and

8           WHEREAS, the residents of New Mexico have suffered undue  
9 hardship;

10           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
11 OF NEW MEXICO that the public regulation commission be  
12 requested to convene a task force to investigate how and why  
13 New Mexico consumers lost natural gas service in early February  
14 of 2011; and

15           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force make  
16 recommendations on how to prevent such loss of service in the  
17 future and determine whether state or federal legislation is  
18 needed to carry out its recommendations; and

19           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report to the  
20 governor and the appropriate legislative interim committee by  
21 August 1, 2011; and

22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
23 transmitted to the governor, the New Mexico legislative council  
24 and the public regulation commission.