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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER, THE INTERSTATE
STREAM COMMISSION AND REGIONAL STAKEHOLDERS TO STUDY OPTIONS
FOR ADDRESSING WATER SUPPLY ISSUES IN NORTHEASTERN
NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, New Mexico is located in the great American
southwestern desert; and

WHEREAS, the effects of climate change, unpredictable
weather patterns and water shortages threaten the economy and
overall well-being and safety of New Mexico farmers,
ranchers, city residents and rural residents alike; and

WHEREAS, for 2015, precipitation was near to above
normal across all of New Mexico but spring snowmelt and
subsequent runoff started early and was well below normal for
the fifth year in a row, according to the United States
drought monitor for New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the twelve-month period from January through
December 2015 ranked as the fifth-wettest year on record, the
wettest since 1986; and

WHEREAS, 2015 contrasts sharply with 2014, when drought
conditions were considered extremely dry, with January 2014
considered the driest January on record since 1895; and

WHEREAS, unpredictable weather patterns, such as those
in 2015, further highlight the need to be able to store and

1 transport water in particularly dry years; and

2 WHEREAS, large regional projects that increase the
3 ability to store and import water from other areas have
4 proven to be an effective approach to addressing water
5 shortage issues, helping communities around the state
6 alleviate or mitigate some of their water shortage issues;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, large projects, such as the Ute water pipeline
9 project in eastern New Mexico and the Navajo-Gallup water
10 supply project, have been planned for years but have only
11 recently begun construction to help store water and import it
12 to areas of the state that desperately need it;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
14 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the office of the state engineer,
15 the interstate stream commission and water stakeholders in
16 northeastern New Mexico be requested to study and develop
17 ways of addressing water shortage issues in northeastern
18 New Mexico, including identifying potential water sources
19 outside of the region and developing a pipeline to some other
20 large-scale regional water project to bring water to the
21 area; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the office of the state engineer, the
24 interstate stream commission, the county commissioners of
25 Guadalupe, San Miguel, Mora and Colfax counties and the cities

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of Raton, Las Vegas and Santa Rosa. _____