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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8

42ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SPECIAL SESSION  
1996

INTRODUCED BY  
JOHN PINTO

A JOINT MEMORIAL

OPPOSING ANY TRANSFER OF THE FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF  
THE BRANCH OF SYSTEMS OF THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS FROM  
ALBUQUERQUE TO THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN DENVER,  
COLORADO.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the treaty of 1868 between the United  
States and the Navajo nation, the United States congress in its  
appropriations of funds is required to allocate adequate funds  
to provide services in education, health, resources and social  
services to the Navajo people; and

WHEREAS, the United States congress and the United States  
department of the interior are required, pursuant to federal  
law, to have adequate consultation with Indian tribes before  
modifying, amending or transforming any appropriations for

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1 Indian programs; and

2 WHEREAS, the United States government has broken and  
3 continuously failed to fulfill its obligations as set forth in  
4 treaties between Indian tribes and the United States government,  
5 a clear indication the federal government wants to eliminate  
6 Indian programs; and

7 WHEREAS, the officials of the department of the interior's  
8 bureau of Indian affairs recently informed the employees of the  
9 Albuquerque area office of the branch of systems of the bureau  
10 of Indian affairs that plans are being developed to transfer the  
11 functions and responsibilities of the branch of systems in  
12 Albuquerque to the bureau of mines in Denver; and

13 WHEREAS, the bureau of Indian affairs' Albuquerque office  
14 supports the bureau of Indian affairs' version of the federal  
15 finance system, which is an automated accounting system that  
16 provides services to southwestern Indian tribes, including the  
17 Navajo nation, by maintaining custom software, including the  
18 interface and ancillary systems to provide internal management  
19 reports, and executing jobs for nightly, weekly and annual  
20 closings; and

21 WHEREAS, the transfer of the functions and responsibilities  
22 of the branch of systems to any federal government agency other  
23 than the bureau of Indian affairs by the department of the  
24 interior directly contradicts and fails to recognize the  
25 recommendations formulated by the joint tribal/bureau of Indian

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1       affairs/department of the interior task force on bureau of  
2       Indian affairs reorganization including, but not limited to, the  
3       employment of Indian individuals. The unjust attempt to  
4       transfer the functions and responsibilities of the bureau of  
5       Indian affairs through any interagency agreement or order by the  
6       secretary of the interior to the United States geological survey  
7       is saving jobs for non-Indians in Denver at the expense of  
8       Indian employees in Albuquerque;

9               NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
10       STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it oppose any transfer of the functions  
11       and responsibilities of the branch of systems of the bureau of  
12       Indian affairs from Albuquerque to the United States geological  
13       survey in Denver; and

14               BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States government be  
15       requested to immediately stop the transfer of any bureau of  
16       Indian affairs' functions, responsibilities and resources to  
17       other federal agencies and request that the Indian tribes  
18       affected by such transfer be contacted and present their input  
19       and recommendations in a timely manner prior to initiating any  
20       additional transfer of bureau of Indian affairs' functions,  
21       responsibilities and resources that directly impact Indian  
22       tribes; and

23               BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
24       transmitted to the United States congress, the president of the  
25       United States and the secretary of the interior.

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