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SENATE MEMORIAL 89

**51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013**

INTRODUCED BY

Joseph Cervantes

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE STATE ENGINEER AND THE CHAIR OF THE INTERSTATE  
STREAM COMMISSION TO ENGAGE WITH STAKEHOLDERS TO EXPLORE  
POTENTIAL MEASURES TO ADDRESS WATER SHORTAGES AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS.

WHEREAS, most available data indicate that the state is in  
a drought of historic proportions; and

WHEREAS, urban growth during the past few decades and the  
historic agricultural economy have created tensions among  
traditional water users; and

WHEREAS, water utilities have instituted conservation  
measures, including rate structures to foster water use  
efficiency and water infrastructure improvements; and

WHEREAS, the cost of water rights has risen dramatically,  
even as ownership and control of water resources continue to be

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

1 sources of conflict among stakeholders and communities of  
2 interest; and

3 WHEREAS, legal expenses and policy disputes escalate as  
4 the continued availability of water supplies and delivery  
5 systems becomes more doubtful;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
7 OF NEW MEXICO that the state engineer and the chair of the  
8 interstate stream commission be requested to engage with  
9 stakeholders to explore potential measures to address water  
10 shortages and infrastructure needs; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that stakeholders include  
12 representatives of agricultural, business and environmental  
13 interests; municipalities; and rural, urban, senior and junior  
14 water rights owners and users; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
16 transmitted to the state engineer, the chair of the interstate  
17 stream commission, the water dialogue, regional water planning  
18 groups and regional water assemblies.