

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSERVATION OF IRRIGATED
3 FARMLAND, INCLUDING SMALL PARCELS OF PRODUCTIVE FARMLAND, TO
4 NEW MEXICO'S CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ECONOMY.

5
6 WHEREAS, agriculture plays a vital role in New Mexico's
7 economy, with a total value of production exceeding four
8 billion two hundred million dollars (\$4,200,000,000),
9 according to 2012 New Mexico department of agriculture
10 statistics; and

11 WHEREAS, small family farms accounted for ninety-seven
12 percent of all United States farms in 2011, according to a
13 United States department of agriculture family farm report;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, a 2012 census of agriculture report shows
16 New Mexico with nearly thirteen thousand seven hundred farms,
17 more than half of which range from one to nine acres in size;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, a significant number of small family farms are
20 located along the nearly one thousand acequias or community
21 ditches located throughout the state; and

22 WHEREAS, acequias are historic, integral parts of the
23 culture and heritage of New Mexico and play an important role
24 in responding to the demand for supplies of fresh, local and
25 healthy food; and

1 WHEREAS, the growing demand for high-value,
2 high-nutrition, locally grown food is showcased in the growth
3 of New Mexico's approximately seventy-five farmers' markets;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, small-scale growers have less land and rely on
6 high-value specialty crops that can bring in more money per
7 acre for their efforts than traditional crops like alfalfa;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, New Mexico state university reports that more
10 young people are joining the state's agricultural community,
11 more kinds of agricultural items are being produced in
12 New Mexico and the number of venues for farmers and ranchers
13 is increasing; and

14 WHEREAS, farmers' markets foster a strong sense of
15 community where people can talk to the farmers who sell their
16 products;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
18 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it be the clearly delineated
19 governmental policy of New Mexico to encourage, support and
20 facilitate the conservation of irrigated farmland, including
21 small parcels of productive farmland; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature find that
23 conservation of irrigated farmland, including small parcels
24 of productive farmland, is significant and important to
25 New Mexico; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the New Mexico secretary of agriculture, the secretary of energy, minerals and natural resources, the state engineer, the chair of the interstate stream commission, the acequia commission, the executive director of the New Mexico acequia association and the board chair of the New Mexico farmers' marketing association. _____