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SENATE MEMORIAL 85

**53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018**

INTRODUCED BY

John Pinto

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING FEBRUARY 2, 2018 "WATER IS LIFE DAY" IN THE SENATE.

WHEREAS, water is sacred and the essence of all life; and

WHEREAS, two-thirds of the earth's surface is covered by water, and the human body consists of seventy-five percent water; and

WHEREAS, over sixty-eight percent of the fresh water on earth is trapped in glaciers, and thirty percent of fresh water is in the ground; and

WHEREAS, a person can live for about a month without food but only for about a week without water; and

WHEREAS, approximately four hundred billion gallons of water are used in the United States every day; and

WHEREAS, seven hundred eighty million people lack access to an improved water source; and

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1           WHEREAS, water is New Mexico's most precious resource,  
2 especially during times of drought; and

3           WHEREAS, New Mexico's water sources are fragile and face  
4 serious ecological challenges; and

5           WHEREAS, the Rio Grande is essential to New Mexico's  
6 agricultural regions; and

7           WHEREAS, water has a special meaning to Native Americans,  
8 and it is recognized as being sacred and the essence of all  
9 life; and

10          WHEREAS, water is medicine and is spiritual to the Navajo  
11 Nation and all New Mexico tribes and pueblos; and

12          WHEREAS, on the Navajo reservation, the community of  
13 Shiprock and surrounding areas rely on the water from the San  
14 Juan and Animas rivers for irrigation; and

15          WHEREAS, on August 5, 2015, an environmental disaster  
16 occurred at the Gold King mine near Silverton, Colorado, where  
17 federal environmental protection agency contractors  
18 accidentally destroyed the plug holding water trapped inside  
19 the mine, which caused an overflow of the pond, spilling three  
20 million gallons of wastewater into the Animas river; and

21          WHEREAS, the spill has affected the waterways of  
22 municipalities in Colorado, Utah and New Mexico, as well as the  
23 Navajo Nation, and remediation is still under way; and

24          WHEREAS, to New Mexicans, water is considered among the  
25 most important resources because it nourishes the human body,

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1 livestock and all plants and animals and deserves respect; and

2 WHEREAS, New Mexico tribes and pueblos are diligently  
3 protecting their water rights through treaties, sovereignty  
4 rights, adjudications and litigation; and

5 WHEREAS, people must continue to be aware and take action  
6 to protect water sources; and

7 WHEREAS, people must look for alternatives and new  
8 innovations to maintain and preserve water quality and safety;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
10 OF NEW MEXICO that water be protected, because water is life,  
11 it is sacred and it is alive; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that February 2, 2018 be declared  
13 "Water is Life Day" in the senate; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
15 transmitted to the governor, the state engineer, the chair of  
16 the appropriate interim committee that studies water and  
17 natural resources and New Mexico's congressional delegation.