

HOUSE MEMORIAL 45

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER FOR THE FUTURE OF RURAL
COMMUNITIES IN TAOS COUNTY AND THROUGHOUT NEW MEXICO AND
REQUESTING THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL COMMISSION TO HEAR THE
PETITION FROM TAOS COUNTY.

WHEREAS, the supply of freshwater in New Mexico that is available for use by acequias, Indian nations, tribes and pueblos, consumers, agriculture, industry, renewable energy and economic development and for delivery to Texas is expected to diminish significantly over the next decade; and

WHEREAS, the Produced Water Act, passed in 2019, called for the water quality control commission to adopt rules relating to the use of treated produced water; and

WHEREAS, the governor's fifty-year water action plan specifically calls for the adoption of preliminary water reuse

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1 rules to create a consistent and science-based regulatory
2 program for the treatment and reuse of produced water outside
3 of the oil and gas sector; and

4 WHEREAS, New Mexico has the opportunity to lead the
5 country in artificial intelligence and quantum computing
6 technology and to develop environmentally responsible models
7 for data center development for economic diversification; and

8 WHEREAS, the growth of artificial intelligence, quantum
9 computing and related technology requires energy and water
10 resources; and

11 WHEREAS, data centers supporting the use of artificial
12 intelligence, quantum computing and conventional computing
13 should be constructed in an environmentally and socially
14 sustainable manner that will not negatively impact New Mexico's
15 freshwater resources or negatively impact electricity use in
16 the state; and

17 WHEREAS, the scientific evidence is increasingly clear
18 that produced water can be effectively treated for beneficial
19 reuse as demonstrated by current and planned treatment and
20 reuse of produced water in California and Texas; and

21 WHEREAS, using produced water rather than freshwater to
22 meet the water demand from data centers will safeguard New
23 Mexico's freshwater resources; and

24 WHEREAS, rural communities in Taos county and throughout
25 the state have demonstrated admirable leadership in protecting

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1 freshwater resources but continue to face an uphill battle; and

2 WHEREAS, a petition for a rule allowing for the reuse of
3 treated produced water for industrial uses and delivery to
4 Texas is being developed by a resident of Questa in Taos
5 county; and

6 WHEREAS, time is of the essence for the water quality
7 control commission to hear this petition once it has been
8 submitted and to promulgate rules enabling the beneficial reuse
9 of treated produced water;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
11 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it affirm the
12 scientific evidence enabling the beneficial reuse of treated
13 produced water and the importance of produced water as an asset
14 for economic development, reducing poverty in rural communities
15 and protecting freshwater resources in Taos county and
16 throughout the state; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the water quality control
18 commission be requested to consider the scientific evidence
19 relating to the beneficial reuse of treated produced water and
20 the petition from Taos county within ninety days of receipt of
21 the petition and that any hearings held in relation to the
22 petition be held in Questa; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
24 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of environment, the
25 secretary of economic development, the chair of the water

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1 quality control commission, the state engineer, the chair of
2 the interstate stream commission, the director of the Questa
3 economic development fund, the mayor of the village of Questa
4 and the members of the board of county commissioners of Taos
5 county.

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