

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 7

2 **45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Patrick H. Lyons

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO DIRECT THE  
12 APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT ISSUES  
13 ON THE EASTERN PLAINS.

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15 WHEREAS, the Ogallala aquifer is the single source of  
16 water for domestic, agricultural, commercial and industrial  
17 users on the eastern plains of New Mexico; and

18 WHEREAS, the Ogallala aquifer is being mined throughout  
19 the eight states where it is located, and withdrawals are  
20 exceeding the natural recharge of ground water in that region;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, the March 1999 state engineer's technical report  
23 99-2 says "concentrated pumping in Curry and Roosevelt  
24 counties in New Mexico as well as Bailey county in Texas will  
25 de-water large portions of the most productive areas of the  
basin as early as the year 2010"; and

WHEREAS, technical report 99-2 also states "Parts of the  
basin where the remaining 1990 saturated thickness is less  
than 50 feet will not sustain continued pumping beyond the

underscored material = new  
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year ... 2010"; and

WHEREAS, population growth is accelerating the rate of depletion of the water reserves and exacerbating water quality problems; and

WHEREAS, the cost of additional water systems is prohibitively expensive and requires enhanced conservation of available water supplies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council be requested to direct the appropriate committee to review ground water management issues in the eastern plains of New Mexico; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state engineer and the department of environment be requested to cooperate with the appropriate committee by submitting testimony and relevant documentation on the supply and quality of ground water in the eastern plains of New Mexico; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to members of the New Mexico legislative council, the state engineer and the secretary of environment.