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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 94

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Terry T. Marquardt

A JOINT MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THE INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION WITH THE
COOPERATION OF THE NEW MEXICO FINANCE AUTHORITY TO STUDY THE
FEASIBILITY OF CONSTRUCTING A WATER PIPELINE FROM THE SALT
FLATS OF OTERO COUNTY TO SERVE URBAN DEVELOPMENT NEEDS IN PLACE
OF CONVERSION OF AGRICULTURAL IRRIGATION WATER RIGHTS.**

**WHEREAS, water is a critical resource in New Mexico and
the state's economy cannot afford to sacrifice the second major
economic driver, agriculture, for equally vital development
needs in urban areas; and**

**WHEREAS, significant amounts of quality water are
available from underground sources in the salt flats area of
Otero county; and**

**WHEREAS, a pipeline to carry water may be more
economically feasible than the millions of dollars spent so far**

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1 and anticipated to be spent in conversion of agricultural
2 irrigation rights to meet compact delivery obligations and the
3 domestic needs of urban areas such as Las Cruces, Carlsbad,
4 Alamogordo and Roswell;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
6 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the interstate stream commission with
7 the cooperation of the New Mexico finance authority be
8 requested to study the feasibility of constructing a water
9 transmission pipeline from the salt flats of Otero county to
10 needy urban areas in lieu of conversion of irrigation water
11 rights and expensive litigation and construction of
12 infrastructure to transport surface water from the Pecos river
13 or the Rio Grande to those recipients; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the interstate stream
15 commission and the New Mexico finance authority report their
16 findings and recommendations to the legislature by November 1,
17 2003; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the interstate stream commission and the New
20 Mexico finance authority.