SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 6

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004

INTRODUCED BY

Dede Feldman

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT TO DEVELOP A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR TRANSFORMING THE ECONOMICS OF RECYCLING IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, solid waste disposal sites and illegal dumping might potentially harm ground water resources in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, maintaining and developing new landfills is costly and stressful for local communities; and

WHEREAS, forest thinning projects, the current bark beetle epidemic and the removal of non-native trees along watercourses have created an immediate need to develop markets to encourage the production of value-added products from tree waste; and

WHEREAS, few recycling and waste diversion options are available to communities in New Mexico, as evidenced by the state's recycling rate of under ten percent and waste diversion . 149497.1

rate of twenty-five percent; and

WHEREAS, the construction and demolition industry is responsible for thirty percent of the landfill waste in New Mexico: and

WHEREAS, recycling and waste diversion options are limited by the lack of local markets and manufacturing enterprises that use waste commodities as feedstock: and

WHEREAS, integrated waste management planning that emphasizes recycling and waste diversion will develop recycling markets and recycled feedstock manufacturing enterprises and promote job growth; and

WHEREAS, new markets and business opportunities will provide waste diversion options to communities across the state and ultimately support the local tax base; and

WHEREAS, increased recycling and waste diversion will reduce pollution and promote more efficient use of natural resources: and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico recycling coalition developed a preliminary report entitled "Transforming the Economics of Recycling in New Mexico" that identifies resources and methods to promote recycling, waste diversion and market development;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of environment cooperate with the economic development department and the New Mexico recycling coalition to develop a written strategic plan

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for transforming the economics of recycling in New Mexico; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the strategic plan for transforming the economics of recycling in New Mexico include a review of resources and methods to promote recycling, waste diversion and market development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the strategic plan include a recommendation of an appropriate agency to implement and administer the methods identified in the plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of environment be requested to present the written strategic plan to the appropriate interim legislative committee by December 1, 2004; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of the strategic plan be distributed to members of the appropriate interim legislative committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that two copies of the strategic plan be filed with the legislative council service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the department of environment, the economic development department and the New Mexico recycling coalition.

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