

1 HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 86

2 **47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Joseph Cervantes

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THAT THE STATE ENGINEER COLLABORATE WITH THE  
12 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND OTHER AGENCIES TO DEVELOP  
13 CRITERIA FOR WATER SYSTEM PLANNING, PERFORMANCE AND  
14 CONSERVATION AS A CONDITION OF STATE FINANCING.

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16 WHEREAS, there are six hundred fifty public water systems  
17 and seven hundred private water systems in New Mexico; and

18 WHEREAS, ninety-five percent of these systems serve fewer  
19 than five hundred customers; and

20 WHEREAS, most of these systems are aging, have limited  
21 capacity, have difficulty complying with federal clean water  
22 policies, lack adequate water rights, experience continuing  
23 management and technical problems, have an inadequate financial  
24 base and lack professional planning; and

25 WHEREAS, financing capacity for construction, operation

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1 and maintenance of these systems is a perennial problem that  
2 regionalization or clustering of water system services could  
3 help address by increasing the customer and revenue base and  
4 exploiting economies of scale; and

5 WHEREAS, estimates of the cost of meeting New Mexico's  
6 water system needs go as high as five billion dollars  
7 (\$5,000,000,000) over the next twenty years; and

8 WHEREAS, our congressional delegation tells us not to  
9 expect the kind of subsidies from congress that we have become  
10 used to, and the state legislature has yet to solve the riddle  
11 of how to finance these huge demands; and

12 WHEREAS, it is imperative that available money for water  
13 system services be spent efficiently and effectively and in  
14 compliance with state and federal water law; and

15 WHEREAS, the effective expenditure of public funds and the  
16 successful provision of water services depend upon professional  
17 engineering, strategic planning and political fairness;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state engineer be requested to  
20 collaborate with the department of environment and other  
21 agencies to develop criteria for water system planning,  
22 performance and conservation as a condition of state financing;  
23 and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state engineer report all  
25 findings and recommendations to the appropriate interim

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1 legislative committee by December 1, 2005; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
3 transmitted to the state engineer, the governor and the  
4 secretary of environment.

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