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SENATE MEMORIAL 14

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006

INTRODUCED BY

Dede Feldman

A MEMORIAL

ENCOURAGING MANUFACTURERS AND RETAILERS OF ELECTRONICS TO
COMMIT TO PROTECTING NEW MEXICO'S ENVIRONMENT BY SUPPORTING A
VOLUNTARY ELECTRONIC WASTE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING PILOT
PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, rapid advances in technology coupled with an
explosion in sales of consumer electronics has created an
exponential increase in electronic waste, also known or
referred to as e-waste, that contains dangerous substances such
as lead, mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls that can pollute
New Mexico's air and water; and

WHEREAS, electronic waste consists of electronic products
that are discarded by consumers, including televisions;
computers; audio and stereo equipment; VCRs and DVD players;
video cameras; telephones; cellular phones and other wireless

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1 devices; fax machines; copy machines; and video game consoles;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, a recent study by the government accountability
4 office estimates that fifty million computers and twenty
5 million televisions become obsolete each year, and the
6 environmental protection agency estimates that only about ten
7 percent of electronic waste is recycled; and

8 WHEREAS, used and nonfunctioning electronic products draw
9 down landfill space, and recycling those products prevents the
10 release of heavy metals and polychlorinated biphenyls that
11 could pose environmental and health risks; and

12 WHEREAS, protection of New Mexico's air, land and water
13 resources is vital to the public health, safety and welfare of
14 its residents; and

15 WHEREAS, in the 2005 legislative session, the legislature
16 passed Senate Joint Memorial 9, which requested the secretary
17 of environment to appoint a task force to assess the problem of
18 electronic waste in New Mexico and make recommendations for the
19 development of a statewide disposal and recycling program; and

20 WHEREAS, in its 2005 report to the legislature, the task
21 force recommended that a voluntary statewide electronic waste
22 collection and recycling program be implemented, first as a
23 pilot program and then statewide, focusing on used computers;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, the task force recommended that local and

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1 national electronic retailers support electronic waste
2 recycling by providing their customers with information
3 regarding the voluntary electronic waste pilot program; and

4 WHEREAS, computer manufacturers can also assist the
5 voluntary electronic waste pilot program by providing
6 informational and financial support; and

7 WHEREAS, success of the pilot program is crucial to
8 implementing an effective voluntary electronic waste recycling
9 program across New Mexico; and

10 WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced in the 2006
11 legislative session seeking twenty-five thousand dollars
12 (\$25,000) to fund a voluntary electronic waste collection and
13 recycling pilot program through the department of environment,
14 with the funds contingent on receiving a matching effort on
15 behalf of the computer manufacturers and retailers to develop
16 marketing and advertising programs; and

17 WHEREAS, a commitment by the electronic manufacturers and
18 retailers to support the voluntary statewide e-waste collection
19 and recycling pilot program would show that their companies and
20 businesses are committed to helping protect New Mexico's
21 environment;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
23 OF NEW MEXICO that manufacturers and retailers of electronics
24 be encouraged to commit to protecting New Mexico's environment
25 by supporting a voluntary electronic waste collection and

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1 recycling pilot program; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the manufacturers and
3 retailers of electronics demonstrate their commitment by
4 providing the public with information on electronic waste
5 recycling and by offering financial support or equivalent
6 resources to the pilot program; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
8 transmitted to the secretary of environment, the chair of the
9 interim radioactive and hazardous materials committee and
10 members of the electronic waste task force.

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