

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION TO INSTITUTE PROJECTS, STUDIES AND AN INVESTIGATION TO REALIZE AND DOCUMENT METHODS OF CONSERVING AGRICULTURAL WATER WHILE INCREASING AND SECURING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY AND IMPROVING AND PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND QUALITY OF LIFE.

WHEREAS, the state has a long history of significant beneficial agricultural water use; and

WHEREAS, agricultural water uses comprise from at least sixty to eighty percent of the water use throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, competing demands for development, the environment and current and traditional agricultural uses require aggressive and effective steps to conserve water to meet New Mexico's diverse needs; and

WHEREAS, the state benefits greatly from preservation of the traditional acequia system; and

WHEREAS, agricultural producers and the acequias will benefit greatly from improved methods of agricultural water use; and

WHEREAS, without conservation of water, the economy, lifestyle, environment and agricultural traditions of the state of New Mexico are in jeopardy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the interstate stream commission and office of the state engineer, in conjunction with New Mexico state university and agricultural producers, undertake those studies necessary to document methods and practices that can result in less use of agricultural water while maintaining, increasing or improving agricultural production and economics; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the interstate stream commission, the state engineer and New Mexico state university report their findings to the appropriate committee of the legislature appointed by the New Mexico legislative council to review this issue; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the chair of the interstate stream commission, the state engineer and the president of New Mexico state university.