

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 18

2 **48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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8 FOR THE INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

9
10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 URGING CONGRESS TO PASS THE NORTHWESTERN NEW MEXICO RURAL WATER
12 PROJECTS ACT.

13
14 WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico and the Navajo Nation
15 have negotiated the San Juan River Basin in New Mexico Navajo
16 Nation Water Rights Settlement Agreement, referred to in this
17 memorial as the "settlement agreement", that quantifies the
18 Navajo Nation's rights to use water of the San Juan river basin
19 in New Mexico; and

20 WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation, the state of New Mexico and
21 the city of Gallup have approved the settlement agreement or
22 related agreements that will implement the settlement agreement
23 and the construction of the Navajo-Gallup water supply project;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, both the interstate stream commission and the

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1 state engineer have approved the settlement agreement; and

2 WHEREAS, the settlement agreement fits within New Mexico's
3 apportionment under the Upper Colorado River Basin Compact and
4 provides benefits to the state of New Mexico, the Navajo Nation
5 and the Jicarilla Apache Nation and also provides substantial
6 protections to other parties to the San Juan river
7 adjudication; and

8 WHEREAS, construction of the Navajo-Gallup water supply
9 project will provide water to numerous chapters of the Navajo
10 Nation and will reduce the need for eighty thousand Navajo men,
11 women and children to bear the financial and physical burden of
12 hauling water for domestic use; and

13 WHEREAS, construction of the Navajo-Gallup water supply
14 project will provide the city of Gallup with a renewable
15 surface water supply that is essential to the city's future
16 growth; and

17 WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico has already appropriated
18 more than twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) for the
19 implementation of planning and construction of distribution
20 systems for the water that will be delivered to the Gallup area
21 through the Navajo-Gallup water supply project;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
23 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it express its support of the San Juan
24 River Basin in New Mexico Navajo Nation Water Rights Settlement
25 Agreement; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it request the United States
2 senate and the United States house of representatives to
3 approve, during the one-hundred-tenth session of congress, the
4 Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act that has been
5 introduced in the senate as Senate Bill 1171 and in the house
6 of representatives as House Bill 1970; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
8 transmitted to the chair of the United States senate committee
9 on energy and natural resources, the chair of the subcommittee
10 on water and power of the United States house of
11 representatives committee on natural resources, New Mexico's
12 congressional delegation, the governor, the president of the
13 Navajo Nation, the speaker of the Navajo Nation council, the
14 president of the Jicarilla Apache Nation, the city council of
15 Gallup and the mayor of Gallup.