

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION TO CONSIDER
ADOPTING RULES REGARDING BUDGET PAYMENT PLANS FOR RESIDENTIAL
PROPANE CONSUMERS.

WHEREAS, some propane consumers have difficulty paying
seasonally higher heating bills in the cold winter months; and

WHEREAS, many residents most affected in New Mexico are
rural, low-income propane customers; and

WHEREAS, the low income home energy assistance program
funding no longer can be expected to be significantly helpful
in meeting the bills for propane consumers; and

WHEREAS, propane marketers are recognized for working
with their customers to avoid winter shut-offs whenever
possible; and

WHEREAS, a budget billing plan allows a consumer to make
monthly payments based on estimated annual usage and allows
the propane marketer to adjust the monthly payment as needed
in order to avoid a large year-end balance; and

WHEREAS, propane marketers encourage qualifying
customers to use a budget billing plan to avoid interruption
of propane service during the winter months as long as
payments are made as agreed; and

WHEREAS, consumers on a budget payment plan are
typically included on a routing system that provides for the

most efficient delivery by the propane company without disruption to the customer; and

WHEREAS, the public regulation commission will likely be adopting rules regarding propane service;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public regulation commission be requested to consider adopting rules regarding the offer of a budget payment plan by propane companies to their residential customers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public regulation commission be requested to allow each propane company to continue to set terms or conditions of their customers' budget payment plans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be transmitted to the director of the public regulation commission.