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HOUSE MEMORIAL 120

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

Brian F. Egolf

A MEMORIAL

URGING THE NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO ACTIVELY WORK WITH THE CITY OF SANTA FE BUCKMAN DIRECT DIVERSION BOARD AND THE LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF SANTA FE'S DRINKING WATER.

WHEREAS, the proposed Buckman direct diversion project is aimed at providing a more sustainable supply of drinking water for Santa Fe; and

WHEREAS, as long as two years ago, concerned area residents sounded an alarm about potential water contamination from migration of nuclear waste through or near canyons that feed into the Buckman diversion project site; and

WHEREAS, in November 2007, the Buckman direct diversion board communicated six specific concerns to the national

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1 nuclear security administration, and asked for a commitment to
2 ensure the safety of the drinking water supply of Santa Fe; and

3 WHEREAS, staff from the Buckman direct diversion board has
4 been working for more than a year with regional representatives
5 of the national nuclear security administration and the Los
6 Alamos national laboratory on a memorandum of understanding to
7 identify action steps to address these issues; and

8 WHEREAS, in December 2008, representatives from the
9 federal agency indicated their intent to discontinue
10 negotiations regarding the memorandum of understanding; and

11 WHEREAS, significant time has been spent on the technical
12 issues of environmental monitoring that are necessary to ensure
13 a safe water supply for the residents of Santa Fe and its
14 environs; and

15 WHEREAS, time is of the essence, as construction of the
16 diversion project is underway, and is expected to be completed
17 by the spring of 2011;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
19 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the national
20 nuclear security administration of the United States department
21 of energy be urged to actively work with the city of Santa Fe
22 Buckman direct diversion board and the Los Alamos national
23 laboratory to ensure the safety of Santa Fe's drinking water;
24 and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico congressional

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1 delegation join the New Mexico house of representatives to urge
2 the national nuclear security administration of the department
3 of energy to engage in this work; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the regional representatives
5 of the national nuclear security administration immediately
6 resume negotiations regarding the memorandum of understanding
7 so that a resolution can be reached to address these critical
8 issues; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
10 transmitted to the chair of the Buckman direct diversion board,
11 the Los Alamos office of the national nuclear safety
12 administration of the United States department of energy and
13 the members of the New Mexico congressional delegation.

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