

HOUSE FLOOR SUBSTITUTE FOR  
HOUSE MEMORIAL 39

**50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011**

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING CONGRESS TO REAUTHORIZE THE WATER RESOURCES  
DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2007, SECTION 5056, AND TO APPROPRIATE  
SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO INVESTIGATE AND ADDRESS SALINITY SOURCES  
AFFECTING WATER QUALITY IN THE PECOS RIVER.

WHEREAS, the Pecos river is a tributary of the Rio Grande  
that flows between New Mexico and Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Pecos river is known for its naturally high  
salinity, but as human needs and environmental concerns  
relating to the river continue to increase, the adverse  
economic and environmental impacts of the river's naturally  
high salinity have become a much greater issue; and

WHEREAS, much of the natural salinity in the Pecos river  
enters the river in localized areas where geologic brines from  
ancient salt-bearing formations naturally discharge to the

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1 surface, which presents an opportunity for engineered solutions  
2 to intercept such brines before they enter the Pecos river; and

3 WHEREAS, the Pecos River Compact between Texas and New  
4 Mexico provides that "New Mexico and Texas shall cooperate with  
5 agencies of the United States to devise and effectuate means of  
6 alleviating the salinity conditions of the Pecos river"; and

7 WHEREAS, congress began that process by enacting Section  
8 729 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 and by  
9 developing a program in Section 5056 of the Water Resources  
10 Development Act of 2007 that directs the secretary of the army  
11 to rehabilitate and enhance fish and wildlife habitats and to  
12 implement long-term monitoring, data collection and analysis,  
13 applied research and adaptive management within the Rio Grande  
14 basin; and

15 WHEREAS, a successful technical program to identify  
16 salinity sources and potential remedies on the Rio Grande in  
17 the New Mexico-Texas border region has been underway since  
18 2008, under Section 729 of the Water Resources Development Act  
19 of 1986; and

20 WHEREAS, it is imperative that funding and continuing  
21 authority for Section 5056 of the Water Resources Development  
22 Act of 2007, which is set to expire in 2011, be reenacted so  
23 that efforts to address salinity issues in the Rio Grande and  
24 its tributaries can continue;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF

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1 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that congress be  
2 requested to reauthorize Section 5056 of the Water Resources  
3 Development Act of 2007 and to appropriate sufficient funds to  
4 carry out work related to that legislation; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
6 transmitted to the president of the United States, the speaker  
7 of the United States house of representatives, the president of  
8 the United States senate and the members of the New Mexico  
9 congressional delegation.

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