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#### HOUSE BILL 1216

#### 43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1997

#### INTRODUCED BY

#### DANICE PICRAUX

#### AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES; AMENDING SECTION 62-13-3 NMSA 1978 (BEING LAWS 1941, CHAPTER 84, SECTION 82, AS AMENDED) TO PERMIT THE NEW MEXICO PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION TO AWARD LITIGATION EXPENSES TO CERTAIN INTERVENORS.

#### BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 62-13-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1941, Chapter 84, Section 82, as amended) is amended to read:

"62-13-3. COSTS. --

- A. Except <u>as provided in Subsection D of this</u>

  <u>section and</u> as otherwise provided by law, in all proceedings

  before the commission and in the courts, each party to the

  controversy shall bear his own costs and no costs shall be taxed

  against either party.
  - B. In any commission rate proceeding in which the

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utility seeks rates to recover adjusted test-year litigation expenses, there shall be no presumption that the litigation expenses are prudent. Nothing in this section shall be construed to create or imply a presumption of prudence for any utility expenditures not addressed in this section.

- C. As used in this section, "litigation expenses" means all [attorneys'] attorney fees, consulting fees and other costs of litigation, including in-house expenditures.
- D. The commission may award litigation expenses reasonably incurred by intervenors participating in proceedings before it who represent the residential, small commercial or irrigation consumers. The commission shall adopt rules and regulations governing the award of costs to intervenors pursuant to this subsection. "

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# State of New Mexico House of Representatives

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### FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION, 1997

March 3, 1997

Mr. Speaker:

Your **ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**, to whom has been referred

### **HOUSE BILL 1216**

has had it under consideration and reports same with recommendation that it **DO PASS**, and thence referred to the **JUDICIARY COMMITTEE.** 

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# State of New Mexico House of Representatives

## FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE FIRST SESSION, 1997

March 14, 1997

Mr. Speaker:

Your **JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**, to whom has been referred

#### **HOUSE BILL 1216**

has had it under consideration and reports same with recommendation that it **DO PASS**, amended as follows:

- 1. On page 2, lines 9 through 14, strike Subsection D in ts entirety and insert in lieu thereof:
- "D. When, in its discretion, the commission finds that the public interest would be served, the commission may contract to pay the litigation costs of non-governmental intervenors to present evidence and legal argument, or otherwise intervene in proceedings before the commission, in support of the interests of residential, small commercial and irrigation consumers in commission proceedings. All such contracts shall be paid for with funds appropriated to the commission. The commission shall adopt rules and regulations governing its award of such intervenor

# FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE FIRST SESSION, 1997

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	contracts.	•		
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			Respectfully submitted,	
			Thomas P. Foy, Chairman	
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	Absent:	None		
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# State of New Mexico House of Representatives

## FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE FIRST SESSION, 1997

March 14, 1997

Mr. Speaker:

Your **JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**, to whom has been referred

#### **HOUSE BILL 1216**

has had it under consideration and reports same with recommendation that it **DO PASS**, amended as follows:

- 1. On page 2, lines 9 through 14, strike Subsection D in ts entirety and insert in lieu thereof:
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# FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE FIRST SESSION, 1997

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		March 18, 1997
١	Mr. President:	
l	Your <b>CONSERVATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b> , to whom has been referred
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	HOUSE B	ILL 1216, as anended
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l		Respectfully submitted,
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		Michael S. Sanchez, Chairman
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## FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE FIRST SESSION, 1997

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9	roll Yes:	call vote was <u>5</u> For <u>2</u> Against		
10	No:	Ei senstadt, Sanchez		
		Feldman, Griego, Tsosie		
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