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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 8

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999

INTRODUCED BY

John A. Heaton

A JOINT MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO DIRECT THE APPROPRIATE
INTERIM COMMITTEE TO PREPARE LEGISLATION TO REORGANIZE THE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.**

**WHEREAS, environmental quality is critical to public
welfare and the economy of the state; and**

**WHEREAS, federal environmental laws reflect the nation's
prioritization of clean water, clean air and responsible
economic development commensurate with environmental quality;
and**

**WHEREAS, New Mexico exercises primacy in administration
of federal environmental policies; and**

**WHEREAS, the department of environment is the state's
environmental regulatory agency and is responsible for
processing permits for a variety of industries to conduct**

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1 their business; and

2 WHEREAS, New Mexico ranks fiftieth in per capita income,
3 making it the poorest of all the states; and

4 WHEREAS, business is the source of personal income and
5 tax revenues essential to funding environmental quality; and

6 WHEREAS, many businesses have been unable to expand, open
7 new facilities or hire new employees as a result of delays by
8 the department of environment in the processing of required
9 permits for business operations; and

10 WHEREAS, efficient and effective enforcement of
11 environmental policies is essential to the state's economy and
12 to its environmental quality;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
14 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative council direct the
15 appropriate committee to study the reorganization of
16 environmental enforcement, including the restructuring of the
17 department of environment and its functions; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appropriate committee
19 prepare legislation for reorganization of environmental
20 authorities and present the legislation and its
21 recommendations to the legislative finance committee and the
22 legislative council by November 30, 1999; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
24 transmitted to the legislative council, the governor and the
25 secretary of environment.

1 FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
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6 February 10, 1999
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8 Mr. Speaker:
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10 Your ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE, to
11 whom has been referred
12

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

- 17 1. On page 1, line 12, strike "PREPARE" and insert in
18 lieu thereof "CONSIDER".
19
20 2. On page 1, line 13, after "AND" insert "ANY PERTINENT
21 PROCEDURAL".
22
23 3. On page 2, strike lines 6, 7, 8, and 9 in their
24 entirety and insert in lieu thereof:

25 "WHEREAS, it is vital to the economy of the state of New

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5 Mexico for businesses to be able to expand, to open new
6 facilities, to hire new employees, and to avoid delays in the
7 processing of required permits for business operations; and”.

8 3. On page 2, line 15, strike “appropriate committee” and
9 insert in lieu thereof “legislative finance council”.

10 4. On page 2, line 19, strike “prepare” and insert in
11 lieu thereof “consider”.

12 Respectfully submitted,

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18 James Roger Madalena, Chair man

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21 Adopted _____

21 Not Adopted _____

22 (Chi ef Clerk)

22 (Chi ef Clerk)

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24 Date _____

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The roll call vote was 10 For 0 Against

Yes: 10

Excused: None

Absent: None

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