

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022

INTRODUCED BY

DISCUSSION DRAFT

FOR THE RADIOACTIVE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMMITTEE

A JOINT RESOLUTION

PROPOSING TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO BY ADDING A
 NEW SECTION OF ARTICLE 2 THAT PROVIDES THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE
 WITH ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO A CLEAN AND
 HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT AND THE RIGHT TO PROTECTION OF THE
 ENVIRONMENT, AND DIRECTS THE STATE TO SERVE AS TRUSTEE OF THE
 NATURAL RESOURCES OF NEW MEXICO FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL NEW
 MEXICANS AND BY REPEALING THE CURRENT POLLUTION CONTROL
 PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 20, SECTION 21.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. It is proposed to amend Article 2 of the
 constitution of New Mexico by adding a new section to read:

"A. The people of the state have the natural,
 inherent and inalienable right to a clean and healthy
 environment, including water, air, soil, flora, fauna,

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1 ecosystems and climate, and to the protection of the natural,
2 cultural, scenic and healthful qualities of the environment.

3 B. The protection of the state's environment is
4 hereby declared to be of fundamental importance to health,
5 safety and the public interest.

6 C. The state, including its political subdivisions,
7 shall serve as trustee of the natural resources of New Mexico
8 and shall conserve, protect and maintain these resources for
9 the benefit of all New Mexicans, including present and future
10 generations.

11 D. The provisions of this section are self-
12 executing."

13 SECTION 2. It is proposed to amend Article 20 of the
14 constitution of New Mexico by repealing Section 21.

15 SECTION 3. The amendment proposed by this resolution
16 shall be submitted to the people for their approval or
17 rejection at the next general election or at any special
18 election prior to that date that may be called for that
19 purpose.