

\_\_\_\_ JOINT MEMORIAL

**51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013**

INTRODUCED BY

DISCUSSION DRAFT

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING CONGRESS TO REAUTHORIZE THE WATER RESOURCES  
DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2007, SECTION 5056, AND TO APPROPRIATE  
SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THE ACT.

WHEREAS, the Rio Grande basin spans the territory of three  
states, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas, and twenty-two Native  
American tribes and pueblos and is one of the most rapidly  
growing areas in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Rio Grande runs the entire length of New  
Mexico, for more than four hundred fifty river-miles, and major  
tributaries to the Rio Grande are located in New Mexico,  
including the Pecos river, the Rio Chama, the Jemez river and  
the Rio Puerco, and many other smaller tributaries too numerous  
to list; and

WHEREAS, the Rio Grande mainstem and tributaries provide a

1 renewable water supply for irrigation and drinking water and  
2 support nationally significant ecosystems for fish and wildlife  
3 and renowned tourism destinations; and

4 WHEREAS, the water quality of the Rio Grande and the Pecos  
5 river and other tributaries is impaired, in part, by high  
6 concentrations of dissolved salts and elevated levels of  
7 bacteria that can limit available water supply for municipal  
8 and agricultural use; and

9 WHEREAS, the recent catastrophic fires in the upper Rio  
10 Grande basin watersheds have further degraded water quality in  
11 the basin's streams and rivers and the ecological health of the  
12 river ecosystem; and

13 WHEREAS, the Rio Grande and Pecos watersheds in New Mexico  
14 have the highest total number of New Mexico species of greatest  
15 conservation need across all taxa and are predicted to contain  
16 some of the greatest diversity of aquatic species of greatest  
17 conservation need; and

18 WHEREAS, water quality, supply, conveyance and delivery;  
19 ecosystem degradation; and flooding are major issues in the Rio  
20 Grande basin in New Mexico, and state and local funding to  
21 address these issues is inadequate; and

22 WHEREAS, while the United States army corps of engineers  
23 has nationwide watershed assessment and construction  
24 authorities to study problems, recommend solutions and  
25 construct projects to restore the health of rivers, all Rio

1 Grande basin projects must compete nationally for these limited  
2 federal funds; and

3 WHEREAS, the United States congress and president of the  
4 United States established a Rio Grande basin-specific funding  
5 authority in the Water Resource Development Act of 2007 under  
6 Section 5056, called the Rio Grande environmental management  
7 program, which authorized federal funding of up to fifteen  
8 million dollars (\$15,000,000) annually for the Rio Grande  
9 mainstem and tributaries and directed the secretary of the army  
10 to rehabilitate and enhance fish and wildlife habitat in  
11 partnership with local sponsors and to implement long-term  
12 monitoring, data collection and analysis, applied research and  
13 adaptive management; and

14 WHEREAS, the Rio Grande environmental management program  
15 authority expired in September 2011 before any funds could be  
16 appropriated to carry out the program, and congress is  
17 considering draft language for the next water resource  
18 development act;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that congress be requested to reauthorize  
21 Section 5056 of the Water Resource Development Act of 2007 and  
22 to appropriate sufficient funds to carry out work related to  
23 that legislation; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
25 transmitted to the president of the United States, the speaker

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underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 of the United States house of representatives, the president of  
2 the United States senate, the members of the New Mexico  
3 congressional delegation, the commanding general of the United  
4 States army corps of engineers, the assistant secretary of the  
5 army (civil works), the district commander of the United States  
6 army corps of engineers, Albuquerque district, and the chair of  
7 the president's council on environmental quality.

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