HOUSE MEMORIAL 9

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2000

INTRODUCED BY

Jerry Sandel

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT S. 1997 TO SIMPLIFY FEDERAL OIL AND GAS REVENUE DISTRIBUTIONS.

WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico shares a portion of the royalty receipts from oil and gas production from federal lands within the boundaries of the state; and

WHEREAS, the state's share of these royalties is calculated using the net receipts sharing procedure set forth in the federal Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993; and

WHEREAS, the net receipts sharing procedure is a complicated and inefficient means of calculating the state's share of oil and gas royalty receipts; and

WHEREAS, the inspector general of the United States department of the interior has found that inaccurate cost estimates have resulted in states being overcharged millions of dollars in administrative expenses, resulting in

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correspondingly lower federal mineral leasing revenues; and

WHEREAS, the procedure used by the federal government prior to the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 was more efficient and equitable; and

WHEREAS, the procedure utilized under the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 has been a source of disagreement and a source of added administrative burden to the state and to the federal government; and

WHEREAS, Senator Jeff Bingaman has introduced legislation that would abolish net receipts sharing as provided for in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 and resolve future disputes and complexities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the congress be requested to enact S. 1977, The Mineral Revenue Payments Clarification Act of 1999, without amendment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to each member of the New Mexico congressional delegation.