

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

HOUSE MEMORIAL 18

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

INTRODUCED BY

James Roger Madalena

A MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO APPROPRIATE MONEY FOR
AND DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF
THE INTERIOR TO IMPLEMENT THE URBAN INTERFACE PROGRAMS IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NEW MEXICO STATE FORESTER AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENTS OF NEW MEXICO TO REDUCE THE HIGH FOREST FIRE
DANGER IN NEW MEXICO.**

**WHEREAS, over seventy-five years of fire suppression in
New Mexico has resulted in extreme fuel-loading on federal
forest land; and**

**WHEREAS, conditions on the federal forest land have
created emergency situations threatening New Mexico
communities as demonstrated by the Cerro Grande fire's
destruction of a large part of Los Alamos and the Viveash
fire's threat to the Las Vegas watershed; and**

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 WHEREAS, the budgets of the United States departments of
2 agriculture and the interior for preventive thinning are
3 disproportionately smaller than fire suppression budgets; and

4 WHEREAS, local thinning contractors and local federal
5 fire teams have immediate impact on improving the resource,
6 protecting the community from disaster and benefiting the
7 economy; and

8 WHEREAS, the proper management of the state's national
9 forests is a matter of continuing concern requiring long-term
10 planning, human resource development and funding; and

11 WHEREAS, the federal Organic Administration Act of 1897
12 created the national forests "to improve and protect the
13 forest within the boundaries, or for the purpose of securing
14 favorable conditions of water flows, and to furnish a
15 continuous supply of timber for the use and necessities of
16 citizens of the United States"; and

17 WHEREAS, the Organic Administration Act of 1897 requires
18 the secretary of agriculture to "make provisions for the
19 protection against destruction by fire and depredations"; and

20 WHEREAS, in the federal Water Resources Planning Act,
21 congress expressed its intent to "encourage the conservation,
22 development, and utilization of water and related land
23 resources of the United States on a comprehensive and
24 coordinated basis by the Federal Government, States,
25 localities, and private enterprise"; and

. 135393. 1

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 WHEREAS, congress enacted the Watershed Protection and
2 Flood Prevention Act in 1954 declaring a menace to the
3 national welfare of erosion and floodwater and sediment
4 damages in watersheds and declaring congress' intent to
5 cooperate with the states and their political subdivisions for
6 the purpose of preventing such damages, conservation,
7 development, utilization and disposal of water and land to
8 preserve, protect and improve the nation's land and water
9 resources and the quality of the environment; and

10 WHEREAS, congress created urban interface programs in
11 partnership with the state and local governments to reduce
12 fuel loads, create fire breaks and protect private, county,
13 state and federal property;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
15 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the United
16 States congress be requested to appropriate money for and
17 direct the department of agriculture and the department of the
18 interior to implement the urban interface programs in
19 partnership with the New Mexico state forester and local
20 governments of New Mexico to reduce the high forest fire
21 danger in New Mexico; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of agriculture
23 and the department of the interior be requested to establish
24 urban interface programs in New Mexico for long-term
25 remediation and fire management; and

