

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 27

2 47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 AFFIRMING THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO'S COMMITMENT TO HEALTHY
12 COMMUNITIES AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND REQUESTING THAT THE
13 DEPARTMENTS OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT WORK COOPERATIVELY TO
14 FULFILL THIS COMMITMENT.

15
16 WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico is committed to healthy
17 communities for all of its residents; and

18 WHEREAS, environmental degradation poses risks to public
19 health; and

20 WHEREAS, communities are particularly at risk from
21 environmental degradation due to the existing and threatened
22 contamination of scarce resources, especially ground water; and

23 WHEREAS, environmental degradation and public health
24 problems tend to be concentrated in communities without
25 political power and resources, especially minority and low-

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1 income communities; and

2 WHEREAS, some communities are subject to an
3 overconcentration of polluting and risk-producing practices
4 that degrade the environment, and those practices have
5 cumulative effects; and

6 WHEREAS, the state is committed to effective participation
7 by all of its residents in the environmental decision-making
8 processes that affect their lives and their communities; and

9 WHEREAS, the department of health and the department of
10 environment have recognized that state agencies that protect
11 the public health, safety and welfare need to collaborate more
12 effectively to address the issues of healthy communities and
13 public participation in environmental decision-making; and

14 WHEREAS, the federal government has underscored the
15 importance of healthy communities and of participation by all
16 people in environmental decision-making processes by the
17 promulgation of United States Executive Order 12898 and the
18 creation of the national environmental justice advisory
19 council; and

20 WHEREAS, Governor Bill Richardson has underscored the
21 importance of healthy communities and more meaningful public
22 participation in environmental decision-making by promulgating
23 New Mexico Executive Order EO-05-056;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
25 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health and the

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1 department of environment be requested to jointly review their
2 functions, operations and work as well as the constitutional
3 provisions, statutes, regulations and programs that the
4 departments administer to determine:

5 A. the extent to which each department's work,
6 constitutional provisions, statutes, regulations and programs
7 serve to promote healthy communities and meaningful public
8 participation in environmental decision-making, particularly in
9 minority and low-income communities;

10 B. the changes in each department's work,
11 constitutional provisions, statutes, regulations and programs
12 that would be required for the department to more effectively
13 promote healthy communities and meaningful public
14 participation, particularly in minority and low-income
15 communities; and

16 C. the changes in each department's work,
17 constitutional provisions, statutes, regulations and programs
18 that would be required for the two departments to work
19 cooperatively on the issues of environmental degradation and
20 public health and of public participation in environmental
21 decision-making, particularly in minority and low-income
22 communities; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the departments of health and
24 environment report on their joint findings and their work to
25 the appropriate interim legislative committee no later than

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August 31, 2006; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the governor, the secretary of health and the secretary of environment.

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