

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 20

2 **48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Michael S. Sanchez

5
6
7
8
9
10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THAT THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE SET AN EXAMPLE IN
12 RECYCLING FOR THE STATE BY EXPANDING RECYCLING IN THE STATE
13 CAPITOL AND SUPPORTING STATE AND LOCAL RECYCLING PROGRAMS.

14
15 WHEREAS, the legislature passed the Solid Waste Act in
16 1990 that requires state government to recycle; and

17 WHEREAS, the Solid Waste Act requires government agencies
18 and the legislature to send recycling plans to the solid waste
19 bureau of the department of environment; and

20 WHEREAS, state capitol employees and legislators have been
21 recycling paper, cardboard boxes and computers and they are
22 starting to recycle aluminum cans and plastic bottles; and

23 WHEREAS, by increasing its recycling, the legislature can
24 set an example for all New Mexicans; and

25 WHEREAS, there should be additional recycling bins located

.171208.1

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 in convenient locations in the state capitol and other
2 government buildings so that recycling can be easy for
3 everyone; and

4 WHEREAS, many people, including wild friends students,
5 have big dreams about creating jobs that help the environment,
6 and recycling industries create new jobs; and

7 WHEREAS, New Mexico needs more recycling plants so that
8 communities can have recycling programs; and

9 WHEREAS, producing an aluminum can from recycled material
10 saves up to ninety-five percent of the energy needed to produce
11 a can from raw material, thereby reducing the production of
12 greenhouse gases; and

13 WHEREAS, the United States uses more than ninety million
14 tons of paper and paperboard a year and five hundred thousand
15 trees are cut down to make Sunday newspapers; and

16 WHEREAS, recycling paper and cardboard saves trees for
17 wildlife habitat; and

18 WHEREAS, the average New Mexican generates five pounds of
19 trash per day; and

20 WHEREAS, recycling saves landfill space and reduces
21 methane gas emissions; and

22 WHEREAS, plastics and metal trash can cause suffocation,
23 block digestive tracts or cut the mouths of wild creatures who
24 attempt to ingest them; and

25 WHEREAS, plastic trash can harm wildlife by trapping small

.171208.1

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 animals, entangling the feet of large animals and wrapping
2 around the beaks and necks of birds; and

3 WHEREAS, recycling makes a cleaner world for people,
4 future generations and wildlife; and

5 WHEREAS, last year, the United States recycling rate was
6 thirty-two percent, but New Mexicans recycled only ten percent
7 of recyclable materials, which does not send a good message
8 about New Mexico to other people; and

9 WHEREAS, the legislature recognizes the wild friends
10 students for working to create model recycling programs at
11 their own schools and for educating others about the importance
12 of recycling; and

13 WHEREAS, the legislature supports recycling in schools and
14 encourages school districts to develop recycling programs in
15 all schools, including placement of recycling bins and pick-up
16 services on school campuses; and

17 WHEREAS, the legislature encourages communities to set up
18 recycling programs, including curbside recycling; and

19 WHEREAS, the governor has declared New Mexico to be a
20 "green state"; and

21 WHEREAS, all New Mexicans should be able to recycle
22 easily;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
24 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that recycling by the legislature's members
25 and employees, state and local governments, schools,

.171208.1

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 communities and the public and the development of recycling
2 plants and jobs in New Mexico be supported; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature increase
4 funding to the legislative building services budget to purchase
5 additional recycling bins for paper, aluminum, glass and
6 plastic for the use of the public, employees and legislators;
7 and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that additional recycling services
9 for the state capitol be in place no later than January 2009;
10 and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature request all
12 state agencies to send state agency waste reduction and
13 recycling plan worksheets to the solid waste bureau of the
14 department of environment by January 2009; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature request the
16 public education department to work with schools to improve
17 recycling programs in schools; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the legislative council service, the house and
20 senate chief clerks, the office of the governor, the general
21 services department, the public education department and the
22 department of environment.

23 - 4 -
24
25