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SENATE MEMORIAL 16

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

INTRODUCED BY

Richard C. Martinez

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO DIRECT THE
APPROPRIATE INTERIM LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE TO STUDY POSSIBLE
REGULATION OF THE PROPANE GAS INDUSTRY BY THE PUBLIC REGULATION
COMMISSION.

WHEREAS, rising fuel costs across the country are of
increasing concern to the public, especially low-income persons
in rural areas of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, many low-income persons in the rural areas depend
on propane gas as an energy source to heat their homes in the
winter; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary that those New Mexicans who are
most vulnerable to excessive or unjustified increases in the
price of fuel be protected from persons who may take unfair
advantage of them; and

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1 WHEREAS, the propane gas industry and the rates charged
2 for propane gas services are not currently regulated by the
3 public regulation commission; and

4 WHEREAS, including the propane gas industry under the
5 Public Utility Act would provide the public regulation
6 commission with authority over entities manufacturing, storing,
7 selling, or distributing propane gas in enclosed containers or
8 tank trucks for use by consumers, except consumers who receive
9 their supply through any pipeline system operating under
10 municipal authority; and

11 WHEREAS, oversight of the propane gas industry by the
12 public regulation commission would ensure that New Mexicans,
13 particularly low-income New Mexicans, are paying fair prices
14 for propane gas;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
16 OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council be
17 requested to direct the appropriate interim legislative
18 committee to study possible regulation of the propane gas
19 industry by the public regulation commission; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appropriate interim
21 legislative committee be directed to hold a hearing on the
22 issue by November 1, 2008; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
24 transmitted to the New Mexico legislative council and the chair
25 of the public regulation commission.

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