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HOUSE MEMORIAL 95

**49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009**

INTRODUCED BY

Sandra D. Jeff

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION TO CONSIDER  
ADOPTING RULES REGARDING BUDGET PAYMENT PLANS FOR RESIDENTIAL  
PROPANE CONSUMERS.

WHEREAS, some propane consumers have difficulty paying  
seasonally higher heating bills in the cold winter months; and

WHEREAS, many residents most affected in New Mexico are  
rural, low-income propane customers; and

WHEREAS, the low income home energy assistance program  
funding no longer can be expected to be significantly helpful  
in meeting the bills for propane consumers; and

WHEREAS, propane marketers are recognized for working with  
their customers to avoid winter shut-offs whenever possible;  
and

WHEREAS, a budget billing plan allows a consumer to make

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1 monthly payments based on estimated annual usage and allows the  
2 propane marketer to adjust the monthly payment as needed in  
3 order to avoid a large year-end balance; and

4 WHEREAS, propane marketers encourage qualifying customers  
5 to use a budget billing plan to avoid interruption of propane  
6 service during the winter months as long as payments are made  
7 as agreed; and

8 WHEREAS, consumers on a budget payment plan are typically  
9 included on a routing system that provides for the most  
10 efficient delivery by the propane company without disruption to  
11 the customer; and

12 WHEREAS, the public regulation commission will likely be  
13 adopting rules regarding propane service;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
15 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public  
16 regulation commission be requested to consider adopting rules  
17 regarding the offer of a budget payment plan by propane  
18 companies to their residential customers; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public regulation  
20 commission be requested to allow each propane company to  
21 continue to set terms or conditions of their customers' budget  
22 payment plans; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
24 transmitted to the director of the public regulation  
25 commission.

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