

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

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO FUND THE
CONSTRUCTION OF THE NAVAJO INDIAN IRRIGATION PROJECT.

WHEREAS, in 1850, the United States senate ratified a
treaty with the Navajo Nation that committed the United
States to legislate and act so as to secure the permanent
prosperity and happiness of the Navajo people; and

WHEREAS, in 1868, the United States senate ratified a
second treaty with the Navajo Nation that recognized the
importance of water and agriculture to the self-sufficiency
of the Navajo people; and

WHEREAS, after ten years of intense negotiations among
the United States, the state of New Mexico and the Navajo
Nation, in 1962, congress enacted Navajo Indian irrigation
project legislation to fulfill, in part, the United States
treaty obligations in regard to water supplies and a farming
operation for the Navajo Nation; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation also gave valuable
concessions in exchange for the Navajo Indian irrigation
project, allowing water from the San Juan basin, to which the
Navajo had valid claims, to be transported to the Rio Grande
basin, for the substantial benefit of non-Navajos and that
companion project, the San Juan-Chama project, was completed
and the residents and businesses of the Rio Grande basin

1 continue to enjoy the benefits of the bargain; and

2 WHEREAS, the 1962 act reflected the agreement among the
3 United States, the state of New Mexico and the Navajo Nation,
4 and it obligated the United States to construct and maintain
5 over one hundred ten thousand acres of farms for the benefit
6 of the Navajo people; and

7 WHEREAS, the Navajo Indian irrigation project was
8 originally estimated to be completed in about twelve years,
9 contemporaneously with the San Juan-Chama project, but
10 forty-nine years later, only approximately eighty thousand
11 acres of the promised over one hundred ten thousand acres
12 have been completed; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1970, Navajo agricultural products industry,
14 a farming and agribusiness enterprise located south of
15 Farmington, was established to develop the Navajo Nation's
16 economy in northwest New Mexico by farming the Navajo Indian
17 irrigation project lands and engaging in value-added
18 agricultural activities; and

19 WHEREAS, Navajo agricultural products industry's
20 customers include major food companies in the United States
21 and internationally, and its "Navajo pride" brand has gained
22 excellent consumer acceptance as a high-quality product; and

23 WHEREAS, Navajo agricultural products industry is a
24 diverse, profitable business enterprise that directly
25 contributes over thirty-five million dollars (\$35,000,000)

1 annually to the regional economy, and Navajo agricultural
2 products industry-related activities employ four hundred
3 full-time employees annually and one thousand two hundred
4 seasonal employees; and

5 WHEREAS, Navajo agricultural products industry's future
6 projects include continued crop diversification and a food
7 processing plant that would include modern storage and
8 processing facilities to accommodate customer packaging
9 preferences and peak market demands with concomitant benefits
10 to the Four Corners economy; and

11 WHEREAS, Navajo agricultural products industry relies on
12 water provided by the Navajo Indian irrigation project to
13 cultivate about eighty thousand acres, but because the
14 overall completion schedule for the project has been delayed
15 by at least twenty-five years, Navajo agricultural products
16 industry is unable to cultivate its remaining thirty thousand
17 acres; and

18 WHEREAS, the continued delay in the completion of the
19 Navajo Indian irrigation project is causing severe economic
20 and administrative impacts on Navajo agricultural products
21 industry, the Navajo people and the Navajo Nation's plans for
22 a self-sustaining economy in northwestern New Mexico; and

23 WHEREAS, the management board of Navajo agricultural
24 products industry has requested assistance and support from
25 the United States congress and the president of the United

1 States in securing adequate funding for Navajo Indian
2 irrigation project to ensure the prompt completion of the
3 project;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
5 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it urge the United States congress
6 and the president of the United States to appropriate
7 twenty-six million dollars (\$26,000,000) in the fiscal year
8 2012 budget for the construction of block 9 of the Navajo
9 Indian irrigation project, and subsequent annual
10 appropriations for the prompt completion of blocks 9, 10 and
11 11 of the Navajo Indian irrigation project; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation, the
14 speaker of the United States house of representatives and the
15 president of the United States. _____

16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25