

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 46

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO URGE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES BARACK OBAMA TO IMMEDIATELY
DECLARE NEW MEXICO A DISASTER AREA DUE TO EXTREME COLD WEATHER
AND THE LOSS OF NATURAL GAS TO NUMEROUS COUNTIES, CITIES AND
MUNICIPALITIES.

WHEREAS, New Mexico had record-setting cold temperatures
during the month of February 2011, when an arctic cold front
pushed into the state, bringing strong winds, snow and
dangerous wind-chill factors; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this frigid weather, numerous
counties, cities and municipalities experienced gas outages
that affected government, businesses and private homes; and

WHEREAS, the loss of natural gas caused a widespread
suspension of business and significant loss of revenues due to

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1 closures of schools, government offices and private businesses;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, individuals experienced extreme hardship and
4 distress because they were unable to heat their homes, and
5 numerous homes suffered damages due to frozen water pipes, loss
6 of electricity and other effects of the loss of natural gas;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, the federal emergency management agency has begun
9 to arrive in New Mexico to assess damages to property, losses
10 to businesses and government infrastructure and issues of
11 personal health; and

12 WHEREAS, the federal emergency management agency is also
13 charged with assessing the cost of the public response to the
14 natural gas outages that occurred as a result of this extreme
15 weather; and

16 WHEREAS, although the federal emergency management agency
17 promises a quick response, the ability of counties and
18 municipalities to rebound and recover from this disaster
19 demands an immediate declaration of New Mexico as a disaster
20 area; and

21 WHEREAS, Governor Susana Martinez, having already declared
22 New Mexico a disaster area, has stated her belief that the
23 federal emergency management agency's assessment will rise to
24 the level of a presidential disaster declaration; and

25 WHEREAS, this declaration is critical to restoring the

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1 public losses to state and local governments that are
2 associated with uninsured damages;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
4 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico congressional
5 delegation be requested to urge President of the United States
6 Barack Obama to immediately declare New Mexico a disaster area
7 due to extreme cold weather and the loss of natural gas to
8 numerous counties, cities and municipalities; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
10 transmitted to President of the United States Barack Obama and
11 the members of the New Mexico congressional delegation.