

SENATE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE MEMORIAL 41

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

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING CONGRESS TO REAUTHORIZE THE WATER RESOURCES
DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2007, SECTION 5056, AND TO APPROPRIATE
SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO INVESTIGATE AND ADDRESS SALINITY SOURCES
AFFECTING WATER QUALITY IN THE PECOS RIVER.

WHEREAS, the Pecos river is a tributary of the Rio Grande
that flows between New Mexico and Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Pecos river is known for its naturally high
salinity, but as human needs and environmental concerns
relating to the river continue to increase, the adverse
economic and environmental impacts of the river's naturally
high salinity have become a much greater issue; and

WHEREAS, much of the natural salinity in the Pecos river
enters the river in localized areas where geologic brines from
ancient salt-bearing formations naturally discharge to the

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1 surface, which presents an opportunity for engineered solutions
2 to intercept such brines before they enter the Pecos river; and

3 WHEREAS, the Pecos River Compact between Texas and New
4 Mexico provides that "New Mexico and Texas shall cooperate with
5 agencies of the United States to devise and effectuate means of
6 alleviating the salinity conditions of the Pecos river"; and

7 WHEREAS, congress began that process by enacting Section
8 729 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 and by
9 developing a program in Section 5056 of the Water Resources
10 Development Act of 2007 that directs the secretary of the army
11 to rehabilitate and enhance fish and wildlife habitats and to
12 implement long-term monitoring, data collection and analysis,
13 applied research and adaptive management within the Rio Grande
14 basin; and

15 WHEREAS, a successful technical program to identify
16 salinity sources and potential remedies on the Rio Grande in
17 the New Mexico-Texas border region has been underway since
18 2008, under Section 729 of the Water Resources Development Act
19 of 1986; and

20 WHEREAS, it is imperative that funding and continuing
21 authority for Section 5056 of the Water Resources Development
22 Act of 2007, which is set to expire in 2011, be reenacted so
23 that efforts to address salinity issues in the Rio Grande and
24 its tributaries can continue;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE

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1 OF NEW MEXICO that congress be requested to reauthorize Section
 2 5056 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 and to
 3 appropriate sufficient funds to carry out work related to that
 4 legislation; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
 6 transmitted to the president of the United States, the speaker
 7 of the United States house of representatives, the president of
 8 the United States senate and the members of the New Mexico
 9 congressional delegation.

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