

The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

48th Legislature, Second Session

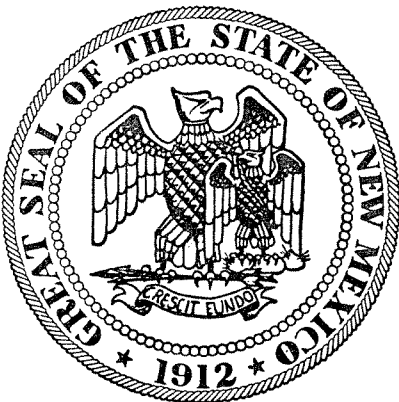
LAWS 2008

CHAPTER _____

SENATE MEMORIAL 37, as amended

Introduced by

SENATOR STEVEN P. NEVILLE



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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING CONGRESS TO APPROVE THE NAVAJO WATER RIGHTS
SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATED BY NEW MEXICO AND THE NAVAJO NATION.

WHEREAS, resolution of the Navajo water rights claims is
to the advantage of the state of New Mexico, the Navajo
Nation and the United States; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico interstate stream commission and
the Navajo Nation negotiated a proposed settlement, which has
been submitted to congress; and

WHEREAS, the proposed settlement calls for increased
diversions to Navajo lands near Shiprock; and

WHEREAS, the priority date of these diversions, 1868, is
significantly older than non-Navajo rights; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is subject to frequent drought,
creating water shortages that would be borne by non-Navajos;
and

WHEREAS, Navajo lake has extensive storage capacity that
could be used to offset these shortages;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
STATE OF NEW MEXICO that congress be requested to approve the
proposed Navajo water rights settlement as negotiated by New
Mexico and the Navajo Nation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as part of the settlement,
congress be requested to support provisions for storage of up

1 to thirty thousand acre-feet of water in Navajo lake to be
2 used by non-Navajo irrigators in times of severe drought and
3 water shortages; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
5 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation, the
6 Navajo Nation and the governor. _____

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s/Diane D. Denish
Diane D. Denish, President
Senate

s/Lenore M. Naranjo
Lenore M. Naranjo, Chief Clerk
Senate