

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

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 18

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006

INTRODUCED BY

Carlos R. Cisneros

FOR THE WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE STATE'S
PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO EDUCATE STUDENTS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF NEW
MEXICO'S ACEQUIAS TO THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF THE STATE.**

**WHEREAS, New Mexico's acequias are a cultural and
institutional legacy in New Mexico that have ancient roots in
the irrigation civilizations of Asia, north Africa and the
Iberian peninsula and indigenous cultures of the Americas; and**

**WHEREAS, acequias continue centuries-old community
customs and traditions of water governance and water
management that are passed on through experiential learning
and oral tradition; and**

**WHEREAS, the integrity of the acequia system depends upon
passing on traditional knowledge from one generation to the
next; and**

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 WHEREAS, families in acequia communities have a strong
2 desire to continue acequia traditions and are creating
3 educational programs for the purpose of documenting
4 traditional knowledge by engaging youth in mentorship
5 programs; and

6 WHEREAS, learning about acequias provides opportunities
7 for youth to learn about participatory democracy, indigenous
8 knowledge, biodiversity, hydrology, history and language,
9 which are vital topics to building a new generation of civic
10 leaders; and

11 WHEREAS, the state has a vital role to play in
12 encouraging a new generation of acequia parciantes by
13 supporting the creation of acequia curricula, by accommodating
14 the seasonal schedules of agricultural and food traditions and
15 by supporting community-based youth mentorship and service-
16 learning programs;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
18 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it recognize the profound importance
19 of acequias to New Mexico's cultural heritage and promote the
20 role of youth in sustaining and strengthening acequias for the
21 future; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
23 department be requested to support efforts to engage youth in
24 the research of acequia history and in the documentation of
25 cultural knowledge embodied in present-day acequias and to

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 develop curricula about acequias for local school districts;
2 and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local school districts be
4 requested to recognize the significance of acequia activities
5 to the cultural identity of youth in traditional communities
6 and that those school districts accommodate participation of
7 youth in spring acequia cleanings and other agricultural
8 activities by allowing excused absences for such activities;
9 and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local school districts be
11 requested to partner with community-based organizations such
12 as the New Mexico acequia association to create service-
13 learning opportunities in which youth learn cultural knowledge
14 in a community setting; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state agencies and local
16 governments be requested to work to ensure that acequias
17 remain strong by promoting policies that enhance their
18 viability for the benefit of future generations; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
20 transmitted to the public education department and to the
21 superintendents of the state's public school districts.