

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THAT THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE SET AN EXAMPLE IN
3 RECYCLING FOR THE STATE BY EXPANDING RECYCLING IN THE STATE
4 CAPITOL AND SUPPORTING STATE AND LOCAL RECYCLING PROGRAMS.

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6 WHEREAS, the legislature passed the Solid Waste Act in
7 1990 that requires state government to recycle; and

8 WHEREAS, the Solid Waste Act requires government
9 agencies and the legislature to send recycling plans to the
10 solid waste bureau of the department of environment; and

11 WHEREAS, state capitol employees and legislators have
12 been recycling paper, cardboard boxes and computers and they
13 are starting to recycle aluminum cans and plastic bottles;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, by increasing its recycling, the legislature
16 can set an example for all New Mexicans; and

17 WHEREAS, there should be additional recycling bins
18 located in convenient locations in the state capitol and
19 other government buildings so that recycling can be easy for
20 everyone; and

21 WHEREAS, many people, including wild friends students,
22 have big dreams about creating jobs that help the
23 environment, and recycling industries create new jobs; and

24 WHEREAS, New Mexico needs more recycling plants so that
25 communities can have recycling programs; and

1 WHEREAS, producing an aluminum can from recycled
2 material saves up to ninety-five percent of the energy needed
3 to produce a can from raw material, thereby reducing the
4 production of greenhouse gases; and

5 WHEREAS, the United States uses more than ninety million
6 tons of paper and paperboard a year and five hundred thousand
7 trees are cut down to make Sunday newspapers; and

8 WHEREAS, recycling paper and cardboard saves trees for
9 wildlife habitat; and

10 WHEREAS, the average New Mexican generates five pounds
11 of trash per day; and

12 WHEREAS, recycling saves landfill space and reduces
13 methane gas emissions; and

14 WHEREAS, plastics and metal trash can cause suffocation,
15 block digestive tracts or cut the mouths of wild creatures
16 who attempt to ingest them; and

17 WHEREAS, plastic trash can harm wildlife by trapping
18 small animals, entangling the feet of large animals and
19 wrapping around the beaks and necks of birds; and

20 WHEREAS, recycling makes a cleaner world for people,
21 future generations and wildlife; and

22 WHEREAS, last year, the United States recycling rate was
23 thirty-two percent, but New Mexicans recycled only ten
24 percent of recyclable materials, which does not send a good
25 message about New Mexico to other people; and

1 WHEREAS, the legislature recognizes the wild friends
2 students for working to create model recycling programs at
3 their own schools and for educating others about the
4 importance of recycling; and

5 WHEREAS, the legislature supports recycling in schools
6 and encourages school districts to develop recycling programs
7 in all schools, including placement of recycling bins and
8 pick-up services on school campuses; and

9 WHEREAS, the legislature encourages communities to set
10 up recycling programs, including curbside recycling; and

11 WHEREAS, the governor has declared New Mexico to be a
12 "green state"; and

13 WHEREAS, all New Mexicans should be able to recycle
14 easily;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
16 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that recycling by the legislature's
17 members and employees, state and local governments, schools,
18 communities and the public and the development of recycling
19 plants and jobs in New Mexico be supported; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature increase
21 funding to the legislative building services budget to
22 purchase additional recycling bins for paper, aluminum, glass
23 and plastic for the use of the public, employees and
24 legislators; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that additional recycling

1 services for the state capitol be in place no later than
2 January 2009; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature request all
4 state agencies to send state agency waste reduction and
5 recycling plan worksheets to the solid waste bureau of the
6 department of environment by January 2009; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature request the
8 public education department to work with schools to improve
9 recycling programs in schools; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the legislative council service, the house and
12 senate chief clerks, the office of the governor, the general
13 services department, the public education department and the
14 department of environment.

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