

HOUSE CONSUMER AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE MEMORIAL 33

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE, THE NEW MEXICO
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES, THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER AND
THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT TO STUDY
THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AND STRENGTHENING REQUIREMENTS
FOR CAPPING ABANDONED WELLS ON PRIVATE AND PUBLIC PROPERTY.

WHEREAS, many uncapped, abandoned wells are located
throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, abandoned wells on private and public property
create a potential safety risk; and

WHEREAS, currently, there are insufficient laws requiring
landowners to cap abandoned wells on private or public
property; and

WHEREAS, many abandoned water wells were constructed
before water basins were declared and regulations were

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1 implemented to require registration of wells with the state;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, a tragic death occurred in Carlsbad when a child
4 wandered onto private property, fell into an open, abandoned
5 well and died; and

6 WHEREAS, identification of abandoned well sites on private
7 and public property and requirements for capping those wells
8 are crucial to prevent similar tragedies in the future;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
10 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico
11 municipal league, the New Mexico association of counties, the
12 office of the state engineer and the energy, minerals and
13 natural resources department be requested to study the
14 feasibility of establishing and strengthening requirements for
15 capping abandoned wells, including both water wells and oil and
16 gas wells, on private and public property; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico municipal
18 league, the New Mexico association of counties, the office of
19 the state engineer and the energy, minerals and natural
20 resources department be requested to make a presentation to the
21 appropriate interim legislative committee regarding the
22 findings from the study by November 1, 2014; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
24 transmitted to the New Mexico municipal league, the New Mexico
25 association of counties, the office of the state engineer and

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1 the energy, minerals and natural resources department.

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