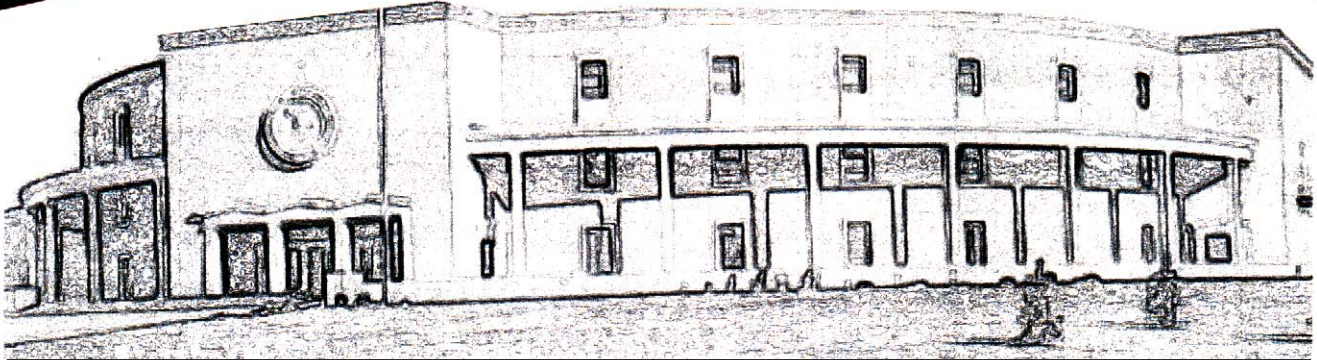


LEGISLEADER



48th Legislative Session - March 5, 2007 - Volume X

The *Legisleader* is the official legislative newsletter of the New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau...the state's largest and oldest agricultural organization. *Farm Bureau....since 1917 a leader in New Mexico!*

Water, Eminent Domain Bills Progressing Through Legislature

The following bills moved a step closer to becoming law after being endorsed by various factions of the State Legislature.

The New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau supports the following bills in their current form.

HJM 11-Sponsored by Representative Ezzell, requests that the State Engineer not transfer water rights files from the Roswell District Office, but rather scan or copy the files for the WATERS database. The scanned or copied files are to be transferred to the Albuquerque office. The legislation passed the House by a vote of 56-8. The Senate committee assignments are

Senate Rules and Senate Conservation.

HB 1278-Introduced by Representative Ezzell, authorizes the Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) to purchase water rights separate from the land to which the rights are appurtenant. This bill will also allow the interstate stream commission to sell back the lands it has so far acquired if the interstate stream commission determines that all or any part of the land is not necessary or desirable for permanent compliance with the Pecos Compact or the Supreme Court's amended decree, first

to its original owner and if the original owner is not interested, then to a third party at the cur-

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All Legislators - State Capitol Switchboard - (505) 986-4300.

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Office of the Governor (505) 476-2200.

N.M. Legislature homepage - www.legis.state.nm.us/

N.M. Farm Bureau Website - www.nmfarmbureau.org.

rent market price for the land.

The bill passed the House by a vote of 51-12 and has been received in the Senate and referred to the Senate Finance Committee.

HB 1282-Introduced by Representative Thomas Garcia, exempts stockmen from having to obtain a permit from the State Engineer's Office provided that the impoundment is 10 acre-feet or less. The legislation requires that there be no perennial or intermittent flow in the watercourse between the proposed impoundment

and the nearest downstream surface water diversion. The bill was passed by the House Consumer and Public Affairs with no recommendation and is now scheduled to go before the House Agriculture Committee. Farm Bureau supports this legislation.

SJR 3 (Similar to HJR1) Introduced by Senator Leonard Lee Rawson- Article 2, Sec. 20 of the State Constitution is amended to limit the use of eminent domain for private commercial enterprises to public uses. Public uses are defined

as the possession, occupation or enjoyment of property by the public-at-large, by public agencies, utilities, pipeline common carriers, and those seeking to put water to beneficial use.

Except for public uses, private property cannot be taken by private commercial enterprises for economic development or other private use unless the owner consents, even if the public will benefit from a more profitable use of the property. The legislation passed the Senate Floor 31-0. The Senate adopted an amendment to include Rural Electric Cooperatives.

Farm Bureau supports the preceding legislative items. You are encouraged to contact your representative and voice support for these bills. Your calls to legislators really do make a difference!! You can contact your representative by logging onto <http://legis.state.nm.us/lcs/legislatorsearch.asp>, then search for your representative by name, district or zip code. Or, call the State Capitol's switchboard at (505) 986-4300 and ask for the phone number of the representative you wish to contact.

To view the entire text of any bill, log on to <http://legis.state.nm.us/lcs/BillFinder.asp>.