A MEMORIAL
REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO ASSESS THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF URANIUM MINE CLEANUP
IN NEW MEXICO REPORT AND TO CREATE A COMMITTEE OF KEY
STAKEHOLDERS TO PROMOTE COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION IN THE
DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION AS A KEY INDUSTRY IN
NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, the state, the Navajo Nation, the Pueblo of
Laguna and the Pueblo of Acoma are faced with the dangerous
toxic environmental legacy from past uranium mining; and

WHEREAS, more than one thousand mine sites need to be
assessed to determine appropriate remediation efforts that may
take decades to complete, and uranium-impacted communities and
workers are largely ignored in studies of new energy economy
opportunities; and

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WHEREAS, in 2019, the legislature appropriated funds for fiscal year 2020 to the university of New Mexico bureau of business and economic research to investigate the potential economic impact of uranium mine cleanup and assess the workforce capacity for conducting the cleanup work; and

WHEREAS, the funding bill was sponsored by Representative D. Wonda Johnson, and the university of New Mexico bureau of business and economic research study was conducted with oversight by the legislature's interim Indian affairs committee; and

WHEREAS, the university of New Mexico bureau of business and economic research report, titled *The Economic Opportunities and Challenges of Uranium Mine Cleanup in New Mexico*, provides a blueprint for how the state can and should prioritize environmental remediation as a target industry, focusing specifically on leveraging existing specialized expertise in cleanup of radioactive and toxic uranium mine wastes; and

WHEREAS, fostering development of a uranium mine remediation industry can be accomplished by creating a central database of critical information on former uranium sites and opportunities, establishing shared workspaces for remediation businesses, adopting safety certification programs for workers and coordinating remediation research among the state's universities, national laboratories and federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, the university of New Mexico bureau of business
and economic research report estimated revenues of one hundred
seventeen million eight hundred thousand dollars ($117,800,000)
per year over ten years and one thousand forty highly skilled
jobs at an average salary of fifty-four thousand six hundred
sixty-three dollars ($54,663) per year in sustainable community
development initiatives based on green jobs; and

WHEREAS, the report makes twelve recommendations in four
categories that address overall planning needed for developing
a remediation industry; challenges faced by state businesses;
challenges faced by the state's workforce; and development of
future opportunities as remediation activities increase in the
state; and

WHEREAS, the report further recommends that research
continue on the effects of unremediated uranium mines beyond
economic impacts, including cultural impacts and health
impacts, and on the validity of metrics used for cleanup
standards; and

WHEREAS, the report provides opportunities to include
uranium-impacted communities and workers in a just economy and
incorporate legacy cleanup activities in sustainable community
development initiatives based on green jobs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be
requested to study the recommendations in The Economic
Opportunities and Challenges of Uranium Mine Cleanup in New
Mexico for implementation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to
create a committee of key stakeholders, including directly
impacted community members, representatives of the Navajo
Nation, the Pueblo of Laguna, the Pueblo of Acoma, state and
federal agencies and any other affected entity in uranium-mine
remediation regulation, science, policy and community impacts,
to promote collaboration and coordination in the development of
environmental remediation as a key industry in New Mexico; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee be requested to
report to the legislature on an annual basis to outline
funding, strategies and any other related implementation
options; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial and
the university of New Mexico bureau of business and economic
research report be distributed to the secretary of economic
development, the secretary of energy, minerals and natural
resources, the secretary of environment, the secretary of
higher education, the secretary of Indian affairs and the
secretary of workforce solutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED copies of this memorial and the
university of New Mexico bureau of business and economic
research report be distributed to the members of the
legislature, members of the New Mexico congressional
delation, the administrator of the United States
environmental protection agency and the secretary of the United States department of energy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of the report be filed in the legislative council service library.

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