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HOUSE MEMORIAL 41

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

INTRODUCED BY

Hector H. Balderas

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT TO CONVENE A RENEWABLE FUELS TASK FORCE TO EVALUATE,
PROMOTE AND DEVELOP STRATEGIES FOR THE PRODUCTION AND
UTILIZATION OF RENEWABLE FUELS IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, while New Mexico currently enjoys abundant oil,
coal and natural gas resources that greatly contribute to the
state's economy and to state government's revenues, these
energy sources are finite and ultimately may be exhausted; and

WHEREAS, the United States' heavy dependence on foreign
sources of oil renders the country extremely vulnerable to
price spikes and fluctuations in international production; and

WHEREAS, renewable fuel sources, or fuels derived from
agricultural and forest waste products that meet American
society for testing and materials specifications containing

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1 ethanol and biodiesel, can provide for rural economic
2 development, a sustainable energy future and reduced air
3 emissions; and

4 WHEREAS, on September 23, 2005, the governor issued an
5 executive order that requires the increased use of renewable
6 fuels in New Mexico, making state government responsible for
7 facilitating and reaching the goal of the fifteen percent
8 renewable fuels usage for state fleets; and

9 WHEREAS, the federal Energy Policy Act of 2005, recently
10 enacted by congress, provides for a national renewable fuels
11 standard that mandates that seven and one-half billion gallons
12 of renewable fuels be consumed annually by 2012, which will
13 require significant expansion of ethanol and biodiesel
14 production in the future and will provide significant benefits
15 to the economy; and

16 WHEREAS, New Mexico Abengoa bioenergy corporation operates
17 an ethanol production facility in Portales, New Mexico, and has
18 expanded ethanol production capacity from fifteen to thirty
19 million gallons per year; and

20 WHEREAS, New Mexico currently is ranked seventh in the
21 nation for milk production and eighth in the nation for cheese
22 production, and dairy waste has significant potential for use
23 in renewable fuels development; and

24 WHEREAS, New Mexico's agricultural industry has the
25 capability for and interest in participating in the renewable

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1 fuel initiative; and

2 WHEREAS, New Mexico's congressional delegation, including
3 the senators who serve on the United States senate committee on
4 energy and natural resources, has a unique opportunity to
5 promote policies in federal energy legislation to benefit New
6 Mexico and the nation;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
8 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of energy, minerals and
9 natural resources be requested to convene a renewable fuels
10 task force to evaluate the potential for New Mexico
11 agricultural entities to contribute to the production of
12 renewable fuels in-state, to develop strategies to enhance the
13 development of the renewable fuels industry in New Mexico and
14 to recommend legislation for renewable fuels standards for
15 2007; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the renewable fuels task force
17 include the secretary of energy, minerals and natural resources
18 or the secretary's designee; the secretary of taxation and
19 revenue or the secretary's designee; the director of the New
20 Mexico department of agriculture or the director's designee;
21 representatives from petroleum marketers and refineries, the
22 dairy and agricultural and forest industries, the renewable
23 fuels industry, the clean energy nonprofit community and
24 automobile dealers; and any other entities deemed necessary by
25 the secretary of energy, minerals and natural resources; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the renewable fuels task force
2 report its findings and recommendations to the appropriate
3 legislative interim committee by October 1, 2006; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
5 transmitted to the governor, the members of the New Mexico
6 congressional delegation, the secretary of energy, minerals and
7 natural resources, the secretary of taxation and revenue, the
8 director of the New Mexico department of agriculture and the
9 New Mexico legislative council.

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