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HOUSE MEMORIAL 64

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

Mimi Stewart

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THAT NEW MEXICO SHOULD BE AN ENERGY CONSERVATION LEADER IN SAVING HUMANS, WILDLIFE AND PLANTS FROM HARMFUL CLIMATE CHANGE EFFECTS AND REQUESTING A "GET A BRIGHT IDEA" CONSUMER EDUCATION CAMPAIGN.

WHEREAS, a majority of scientists agree that global temperatures are increasing, that human activities are contributing to this climate change and that further warming is inevitable unless immediate and sweeping actions are taken to promote energy conservation; and

WHEREAS, global warming creates extreme weather cycles of drought and floods, which are harmful to humans and to New Mexico's ecosystems, including its migrating birds and coldwater fish; and

WHEREAS, rising temperatures throughout the southwest will

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1 lead to increased risks of drought, earlier snowpack melts,
2 decreased drinking water supplies and intense fire seasons; and

3 WHEREAS, increased wildfires and floods are harmful and
4 costly to New Mexico and affect wildlife in harmful ways,
5 including habitat loss and diminished food supplies; and

6 WHEREAS, one-fourth of the world's plant and vertebrate
7 animal species may face extinction by 2050 due to the effects
8 of global warming; and

9 WHEREAS, human activities and energy consumption
10 contribute to climate change by releasing greenhouse gases such
11 as carbon dioxide and methane; and

12 WHEREAS, the use of fossil fuels for energy consumption
13 contributes to the release of greenhouse gases; and

14 WHEREAS, the effects of climate change can be slowed by
15 reducing the release of greenhouse gases; and

16 WHEREAS, the release of greenhouse gases can be reduced by
17 energy conservation and the use of solar, wind and other
18 alternative sources of energy; and

19 WHEREAS, New Mexico should be a leader in energy
20 conservation and take steps to reduce global warming; and

21 WHEREAS, the New Mexico state government aims to be energy
22 efficient and to support sustainable energy production, energy
23 conservation and public transportation; and

24 WHEREAS, if all American families replaced just one of
25 their incandescent light bulbs with a compact fluorescent light

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1 bulb, this would save enough energy to power a city for over a
2 year; and

3 WHEREAS, if state offices, schools and public institutions
4 use compact fluorescent light bulbs and ENERGY STAR-certified
5 appliances and products, this will help energy conservation;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, New Mexicans should be encouraged to conserve
8 resources and recycle paper, cardboard, plastic, glass and
9 aluminum to help reduce waste; and

10 WHEREAS, the New Mexico state government can encourage
11 consumer education on climate change issues and how they affect
12 New Mexico and its wildlife and environment through a "climate
13 change awareness day"; and

14 WHEREAS, New Mexico can help slow the effects of global
15 warming by planting more trees adaptable to New Mexico and by
16 creating wetlands that absorb carbon dioxide; and

17 WHEREAS, student groups, such as wild friends, are taking
18 action to reduce global warming through the use of compact
19 fluorescent light bulbs, recycling and programs that teach
20 energy conservation; and

21 WHEREAS, wild friends students at Rio Gallinas school are
22 participating in designing a classroom greenhouse that teaches
23 self-sustainability through the use of alternative energy,
24 water catchments and organic gardening; and

25 WHEREAS, schools that join the energy schools teaching

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1 about resource savings program and students who design creative
2 solutions for energy conservation should be publicly
3 recognized; and

4 WHEREAS, children in the future should be safe from
5 harmful effects of climate change and should have an
6 opportunity to see and learn about wildlife and nature;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
8 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state be a
9 leader in reducing greenhouse gases through energy conservation
10 and the use of alternative energy; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the energy, minerals and
12 natural resources department be requested to issue pamphlets
13 and conduct the "get a bright idea" consumer awareness campaign
14 to educate the public about energy-saving compact fluorescent
15 light bulbs and ENERGY STAR-certified appliances and products;
16 and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to
18 declare a "climate change awareness day" to help educate
19 residents about how climate change issues will affect New
20 Mexicans and their wildlife and the environment; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state agencies be requested to
22 take steps to use natural lighting, replace light bulbs in
23 existing buildings with compact fluorescent light bulbs and use
24 automatic timers on lights and heating and cooling systems to
25 conserve energy; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state recommend that all
2 New Mexico schools recycle paper, cardboard, plastic, aluminum
3 and glass and participate in the programs known as "energy
4 schools teaching about resource savings"; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state agencies be requested to
6 use energy-efficient vehicles for fuel conservation and to
7 encourage employees to carpool or use public transportation;
8 and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislature
10 consider adopting an income tax credit for consumers who buy
11 ENERGY STAR-certified appliances, products and central heating
12 and cooling systems; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state agencies be requested to
14 support sustainable energy production through research, grants
15 and tax credits to corporations and residents that produce,
16 sell or use clean energy; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
18 transmitted to the office of the governor, the construction
19 industries division of the regulation and licensing department,
20 the department of environment, the department of
21 transportation, the energy, minerals and natural resources
22 department, the public education department, the higher
23 education department, the taxation and revenue department and
24 the members of the New Mexico legislative council.

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