

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE
3 PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS TO WORK WITH SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO
4 DEVELOP PLANS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY
5 PROGRAMS IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH MEMBERSHIP OF LESS THAN
6 THREE HUNDRED STUDENTS.

7
8 WHEREAS, nearly one-third of New Mexico school districts
9 fall below membership of three hundred students; and

10 WHEREAS, these rural, necessarily small, school
11 districts must receive emergency supplemental funding because
12 they cannot generate enough program units to pay all of their
13 operating expenses through the regular funding formula
14 distribution; and

15 WHEREAS, savings on energy usage in these school
16 districts will translate immediately into money to spend on
17 vital programmatic needs rather than spending precious
18 dollars on fixed costs, such as heating and cooling or
19 turning on the lights; and

20 WHEREAS, three small school districts, Carrizozo, Corona
21 and Elida, used American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of
22 2009 grants to install grid-connected photovoltaic systems of
23 fifty to one hundred kilowatts and, while these systems are
24 not large enough to generate all of the energy needs of these
25 school districts, the system at Corona, for example, has

1 reduced its electric bills by fifty-five percent; and

2 WHEREAS, Corona also deployed a future farmers of
3 America student team to study electrical energy usage in
4 every space in the school district, and the team made
5 recommendations that will result in a significant reduction
6 in electrical costs over and above the savings realized by
7 photovoltaic electricity production; and

8 WHEREAS, a photovoltaic system is one of the most
9 appropriate technologies for school districts for many
10 reasons, including:

11 A. it is simple in design and installation and
12 there is no magic or mystery in the technology;

13 B. maintenance is minimal to none, and recruiting
14 and retaining skilled maintenance staff has been a perennial
15 district problem, particularly in rural, small districts;

16 C. these are high-performance systems with a long
17 life, as demonstrated by their typical warranties of
18 twenty-five years or more;

19 D. newer installation designs require no roof
20 penetrations when installed on metal roofs, and roof leaks
21 are not a problem with proper installation; and

22 E. with proper installation and customary factory
23 warranties, there is no need for expensive extended
24 warranties and long-distance service after sale; and

25 WHEREAS, to acquire photovoltaic systems, school

1 districts can use the general services department purchasing
2 division's photovoltaic solar price agreement for state
3 agencies and school districts, which has been extended to
4 December 31, 2013, or they can use the energy, minerals and
5 natural resources department's sample request for proposals;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, based on lower panel costs and lessons learned
8 from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act school projects,
9 photovoltaic systems can be designed and installed quickly
10 for less than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) per
11 site using New Mexico companies and employees; and

12 WHEREAS, continuing the Corona school district example,
13 the district could pay off the investment in a one hundred
14 kilowatt photovoltaic system within five years and have a
15 system that remains under warranty for twenty more years; and

16 WHEREAS, coupled with comprehensive energy plans that
17 include other energy savings, the savings to school districts
18 and the state will be significant;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the energy, minerals and natural
21 resources and the public education departments work with the
22 rural, necessarily small, school districts to develop plans
23 for renewable energy and energy efficiency programs in those
24 school districts with membership of less than three hundred
25 students; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the programs include energy
2 audits and the panoply of renewable energy and energy
3 efficiency strategies that will reduce or eliminate utility
4 costs in these school districts; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
6 transmitted to the secretaries of energy, minerals and natural
7 resources and public education and the superintendents of the
8 Animas, Carrizozo, Chama Valley, Cimarron, Corona, Des Moines,
9 Dora, Elida, Floyd, Grady, Hondo Valley, House, Lake Arthur,
10 Logan, Maxwell, Mosquero, Quemado, Questa, Reserve, Roy, San
11 Jon, Springer, Vaughn and Wagon Mound school districts. _____

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