

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF INCREASING NATURAL GAS VEHICLE  
3 USE IN THE UNITED STATES AND NEW MEXICO; REQUESTING A STUDY  
4 ON HOW TO BUILD THE NATURAL GAS VEHICLE MARKET WITHIN THE  
5 STATE.

6  
7 WHEREAS, energy independence and security has been a  
8 national goal that the United States has pursued for over  
9 forty years; and

10 WHEREAS, the transportation sector accounts for one-  
11 fourth of national energy consumption; and

12 WHEREAS, the United States has abundant natural gas  
13 reserves, and production is expected to continue to grow over  
14 the next twenty-five years; and

15 WHEREAS, New Mexico is a leading producer of natural  
16 gas, and if it were ranked as an independent country, New  
17 Mexico would be considered the twenty-seventh largest natural  
18 gas producer in the world; and

19 WHEREAS, natural gas production is a key component of  
20 New Mexico's economy, resulting in revenues accounting for  
21 approximately one-seventh of the state's budget; and

22 WHEREAS, on September 14, 2015, a new state energy  
23 policy for New Mexico that includes a goal of building the  
24 market for natural gas vehicles was announced; and

25 WHEREAS, improving air quality has been a continuing

1 goal of New Mexico's urban centers for over forty years; and

2 WHEREAS, as a fuel for cars and trucks, natural gas  
3 provides several environmental benefits compared to gasoline  
4 and diesel, including lower particulate matter emissions and  
5 reduced release of greenhouse gases in the production chain  
6 from well to consumer; and

7 WHEREAS, natural gas vehicles emit less than seventy-  
8 five percent of the carbon dioxide and only five percent of  
9 the nitric oxide and nitrogen dioxide emitted by gasoline and  
10 diesel vehicles; and

11 WHEREAS, on December 3, 2015, the United States congress  
12 passed the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, also  
13 known as the FAST Act, a five-year authorization for federal  
14 highway spending that includes many incentives to promote the  
15 use of natural gas vehicles; and

16 WHEREAS, programs using proven technologies to retrofit  
17 diesel vehicles to reduce particulate matter can qualify for  
18 federal funding under the congestion mitigation and air  
19 quality improvement program, also known as CMAQ, and the FAST  
20 Act specifically extends CMAQ funding authority to include  
21 port facilities; and

22 WHEREAS, New Mexico has a fast-growing inland port at  
23 Santa Teresa, which has become a key component of the state's  
24 economic growth; and

25 WHEREAS, school systems and municipalities have

1 historically saved money over the long term by using natural  
2 gas vehicles instead of gasoline or diesel for their bus  
3 fleets due to lower prices per energy equivalent units,  
4 greater stability in fuel price and lower vehicle maintenance  
5 costs; and

6 WHEREAS, two key obstacles to greater use of natural gas  
7 vehicles for large vehicle fleet owners have been highway  
8 weight limitations that have not accounted for the greater  
9 weight of natural gas fuel systems and an inadequate number  
10 of fueling stations along major highway corridors; and

11 WHEREAS, the FAST Act creates a weight allowance for  
12 natural gas vehicles on federal highways and requires the  
13 United States secretary of transportation to designate  
14 national alternative fuel corridors by December 2016;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
16 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that building the number of governmental  
17 and private-sector natural gas vehicle fleets in the state  
18 would have significant economic and air quality benefits for  
19 New Mexico; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that increasing the market share  
21 of natural gas vehicles within the state will help New  
22 Mexico's urban and economic centers stay ahead of changing  
23 national air quality standards; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it would benefit the  
25 residents and businesses of New Mexico for the state to

1 develop its own alternative vehicle corridor plan to be  
2 incorporated into the national plan required by the FAST Act;  
3 and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the energy, minerals and  
5 natural resources department, the general services department  
6 and the economic development department be requested to  
7 develop a report that identifies:

8 A. how New Mexico can increase the use of natural  
9 gas vehicles within the state's public and private vehicle  
10 fleets that includes the current status of the state's  
11 natural gas vehicle market;

12 B. obstacles to increasing the use of these  
13 vehicles by large fleet operators and by individual  
14 consumers;

15 C. the methods being used by other states to  
16 promote their natural gas vehicle markets;

17 D. the potential for New Mexico to receive  
18 congestion mitigation and air quality improvement program  
19 funding and other federal funding to increase natural gas  
20 vehicle use; and

21 E. a plan for alternative fuel corridors within  
22 the state; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the development of the  
24 report, the energy, minerals and natural resources  
25 department, the general services department and the economic

1 development department be requested to consult with members  
2 of the New Mexico natural gas vehicle coalition; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the energy, minerals and  
4 natural resources department, the general services department  
5 and the economic development department be requested to  
6 present this report to the appropriate interim legislative  
7 committee prior to November 15, 2016; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
9 transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural  
10 resources, the secretary of general services, the secretary  
11 of economic development and the governor.

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