

HOUSE MEMORIAL 123

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR JOB GROWTH PRESENTED BY THE FOUR CORNERS AND THE SAN JUAN GENERATING STATIONS IN SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO; REQUESTING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, THE WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS DEPARTMENT AND THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT TO STUDY THIS POTENTIAL AND PROVIDE A REPORT.

WHEREAS, the northwest New Mexico region has a long history with energy production, including natural gas, oil, uranium and coal; and

WHEREAS, the energy sector, which includes coal and oil and gas production, has been the region's top economic base industry, responsible for generating upwards of forty percent of taxable gross receipts for local governments and for providing thousands of jobs and approximately twelve percent of

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1 the wages in the region; and

2 WHEREAS, due to changes in global markets, less expensive
3 fuel stock and other factors, this region has been adversely
4 impacted by industry dislocations, downsizing in production and
5 job loss; and

6 WHEREAS, several mines, including San Juan and Navajo
7 mines that supply fuel to the Four Corners and the San Juan
8 generating stations, depend on these markets to employ hundreds
9 of workers; and

10 WHEREAS, the New Mexico energy policy and implementation
11 plan, finalized in 2015, recommends an all-of-the-above energy
12 approach for New Mexico, as a means to build from our energy
13 assets and to grow our economy; and

14 WHEREAS, the United States economic development
15 administration has made significant investments through its
16 national partnerships for opportunity and workforce and
17 economic revitalization initiative, known as the POWER
18 initiative, in assisting the coal-impacted communities of the
19 northwest New Mexico region to develop a plan to diversify the
20 economy; and

21 WHEREAS, the Four Corners and the San Juan generating
22 stations employ hundreds of people, provide millions of dollars
23 in property taxes each year and are an economic anchor for San
24 Juan county;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF

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1 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the economic
2 development department, the workforce solutions department and
3 the energy, minerals and natural resources department be
4 requested to conduct a study and develop a report analyzing:

5 A. the potential for co-generation and co-location
6 of base industries, to build a cluster of economic activity
7 that benefits from the Four Corners and the San Juan generating
8 stations, supporting infrastructure and workforce;

9 B. the potential for use of byproducts from these
10 facilities;

11 C. technologies, research facilities and businesses
12 that can be supported by and benefit from this proximity;

13 D. best practices and other similar cluster
14 developments in other states;

15 E. workforce strategies for potential
16 implementation, including rapid response programs;

17 F. the potential for the state and local
18 governments to enter into public-private partnerships to
19 incentivize these developments; and

20 G. potential collaboration and resource
21 consolidation with the study requested in House Memorial 72 of
22 the first session of the fifty-third legislature, where
23 applicable; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the economic development
25 department, the workforce solutions department and the energy,

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1 minerals and natural resources department, along with New
2 Mexico energy associations and local, tribal and regional
3 utility companies, local and regional economic development
4 organizations and universities in the region, be consulted and
5 engaged in the development of the report and strategic planning
6 process; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the economic development
8 department, the workforce solutions department and the energy,
9 minerals and natural resources department present their report
10 to the relevant interim legislative committees prior to
11 November 1, 2017; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the secretary of economic development, the
14 secretary of workforce solutions, the secretary of energy,
15 minerals and natural resources, the director of the Four
16 Corners economic development corporation and the chair of the
17 San Juan county commission.