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HOUSE MEMORIAL 59

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2020

INTRODUCED BY

Andrea Romero and Linda M. Trujillo

A MEMORIAL

URGING THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE TO ANALYZE THE IMPACT
ON GLOBAL WARMING OF FOREST THINNING AND BURNING PROJECTS IN
NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, global warming is arguably the biggest
environmental threat to the planet; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to reduce greenhouse gas
emissions; and

WHEREAS, the world's forests contain more carbon than
exploitable oil, gas and coal deposits; and

WHEREAS, avoiding forest carbon emissions is just as
urgent as halting fossil fuel use; and

WHEREAS, trees absorb and store carbon from the
atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, planting trees is one of the most effective

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1 solutions to climate change; and

2 WHEREAS, prescribed burns emit carbon into the atmosphere,
3 thereby increasing global warming; and

4 WHEREAS, extreme conditions of drought, low humidity, high
5 temperatures and high winds brought on by climate change are
6 responsible for large wildfires; and

7 WHEREAS, numerous studies conclude that under extreme fire
8 conditions such as dry vegetation and high winds, tree thinning
9 as a fire prevention method fails, largely because embers jump
10 all barriers including bare land; and

11 WHEREAS, the United States forest service is required
12 pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to
13 analyze the potential environmental impacts of any project,
14 including the thinning and burning of forests;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
16 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the United
17 States forest service be urged to weigh the benefits and harm
18 caused by forest thinning and burning and consider alternative
19 management strategies; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States forest
21 service be urged to thoroughly assess the impact of forest
22 thinning and burning projects on global warming prior to
23 implementation of such projects; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
25 transmitted to the federal secretary of agriculture, the chief

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1 of the United States forest service and the forest supervisors
2 for the Carson, Cibola, Gila, Lincoln and Santa Fe national
3 forests.

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