

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING FEBRUARY 15, 2023 "KIT CARSON ENERGY INDEPENDENCE
3 DAY" IN THE SENATE.

4
5 WHEREAS, since 2013, Kit Carson electric cooperative
6 members have set out to create change in how the cost of
7 electrical power and the source of that generated power
8 impacts the lives of its community members; and

9 WHEREAS, Kit Carson electric cooperative members agreed
10 to a first phase of action as part of an energy independence
11 transition plan, anchored by a necessary change in wholesale
12 power suppliers, which restored local decision making for Kit
13 Carson electric cooperative members in matters of electric
14 power supply; and

15 WHEREAS, Kit Carson electric cooperative members set a
16 goal to lower and stabilize the cost of power, and the cost
17 savings goal has now been achieved with fixed wholesale power
18 rates and with members realizing a reduction in power rates
19 of up to twenty-five percent; and

20 WHEREAS, Kit Carson electric cooperative members set a
21 goal to move away from the existing costly, fossil-heavy
22 power mix served to its members and to secure the ability to
23 self-generate renewable power by locally managed and
24 maintained clean energy generation plants; and

25 WHEREAS, the clean, local power generation goal has now

1 been achieved with Kit Carson electric cooperative's
2 forty-one megawatts of distributed solar power generation,
3 plus sixteen megawatts of accompanying battery storage; and

4 WHEREAS, by Kit Carson electric cooperative leaving its
5 former wholesale power provider in 2016 and partnering with
6 new wholesale energy supplier, Guzman energy, Kit Carson
7 electric cooperative set an ambitious goal of becoming one of
8 the cleanest energy cooperatives in America; and

9 WHEREAS, that goal has been achieved with one hundred
10 percent of its power needs supplied in summer by daytime
11 solar power generation; and

12 WHEREAS, New Mexico has set an objective to achieve a
13 statewide reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by forty-five
14 percent by the year 2030, and Kit Carson electric cooperative
15 is contributing to that reduction goal and is leading the way
16 for other cooperatives around the state and the country to
17 follow its model in driving the energy transition; and

18 WHEREAS, for Kit Carson electric cooperative to make
19 these changes and advancements, it reached an agreement to
20 exit its former wholesale power arrangement with a power
21 generation cooperative at a cost of thirty-seven million
22 dollars (\$37,000,000) based on Kit Carson electric
23 cooperative's portion of generation cooperative related debt,
24 and Kit Carson electric cooperative has fully repaid this
25 charge; and

1 WHEREAS, Kit Carson electric cooperative will continue
2 to recognize cost savings through the Guzman energy and Kit
3 Carson electric cooperative wholesale power partnership that
4 is now expected to save Kit Carson electric cooperative one
5 hundred fifty million dollars (\$150,000,000) to one hundred
6 seventy million dollars (\$170,000,000) over the total
7 lifetime of the wholesale power agreement; and

8 WHEREAS, the Kit Carson electric cooperative and Guzman
9 energy partnership has consistently shown community support,
10 especially in the area of education, as demonstrated by the
11 distribution of over five hundred thirty-three thousand five
12 hundred dollars (\$533,500) in scholarships to graduating high
13 school students for their continuing education; and

14 WHEREAS, during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic,
15 Kit Carson electric cooperative provided much-needed services
16 to its community members, including providing wi-fi hotspots
17 for students and teachers thrust into remote learning,
18 supplying first responders with necessary broadband service
19 and ensuring that the elderly had food delivery during a
20 period marked by heightened isolation; and

21 WHEREAS, Kit Carson electric cooperative will continue
22 its work on phase two of its energy independence transition
23 plan with Guzman energy, focusing on expanding more
24 distributed energy resources, local battery storage and
25 electric vehicle infrastructure, as well as a commitment to

1 the exploration of joint green hydrogen development;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 15, 2023 be declared "Kit
4 Carson Energy Independence Day" in the senate; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Kit Carson electric
6 cooperative be acknowledged for achieving "energy
7 independence" for its members through electricity price
8 stability, cost decreases, the ability to serve additional
9 renewable energy resources and restoring local
10 decision-making ability to better serve its members; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
12 transmitted to the chief executive officer of Kit Carson
13 electric cooperative. _____

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