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HOUSE MEMORIAL 49

**56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023**

INTRODUCED BY

Kristina Ortez

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING FEBRUARY 15, 2023 "KIT CARSON ENERGY INDEPENDENCE DAY" IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

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

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

WHEREAS, Kit Carson electric cooperative members set a goal to lower and stabilize the cost of power, and the cost

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1 savings goal has now been achieved with fixed wholesale power  
2 rates and with members realizing a reduction in power rates of  
3 up to twenty-five percent; and

4 WHEREAS, Kit Carson electric cooperative members set a  
5 goal to move away from the existing costly, fossil-heavy power  
6 mix served to its members and to secure the ability to  
7 self-generate renewable power by locally managed and maintained  
8 clean energy generation plants; and

9 WHEREAS, the clean, local power generation goal has now  
10 been achieved with Kit Carson electric cooperative's forty-one  
11 megawatts of distributed solar power generation, plus sixteen  
12 megawatts of accompanying battery storage; and

13 WHEREAS, by Kit Carson electric cooperative leaving its  
14 former wholesale power provider in 2016 and partnering with new  
15 wholesale energy supplier, Guzman energy, Kit Carson electric  
16 cooperative set an ambitious goal of becoming one of the  
17 cleanest energy cooperatives in America; and

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

21 WHEREAS, New Mexico has set an objective to achieve a  
22 statewide reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by forty-five  
23 percent by the year 2030, and Kit Carson electric cooperative  
24 is contributing to that reduction goal and is leading the way  
25 for other cooperatives around the state and the country to

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1 follow its model in driving the energy transition; and

2 WHEREAS, for Kit Carson electric cooperative to make these  
3 changes and advancements, it reached an agreement to exit its  
4 former wholesale power arrangement with a power generation  
5 cooperative at a cost of thirty-seven million dollars  
6 (\$37,000,000) based on Kit Carson electric cooperative's  
7 portion of generation cooperative related debt, and Kit Carson  
8 electric cooperative has fully repaid this charge; and

9 WHEREAS, Kit Carson electric cooperative will continue to  
10 recognize cost savings through the Guzman energy and Kit Carson  
11 electric cooperative wholesale power partnership that is now  
12 expected to save Kit Carson electric cooperative one hundred  
13 fifty million dollars (\$150,000,000) to one hundred seventy  
14 million dollars (\$170,000,000) over the total lifetime of the  
15 wholesale power agreement; and

16 WHEREAS, the Kit Carson electric cooperative and Guzman  
17 energy partnership has consistently shown community support,  
18 especially in the area of education, as demonstrated by the  
19 distribution of more than five hundred thirty-three thousand  
20 five hundred dollars (\$533,500) in scholarships to graduating  
21 high school students for their continuing education; and

22 WHEREAS, during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, Kit  
23 Carson electric cooperative provided much-needed services to  
24 its community members, including providing wi-fi hotspots for  
25 students and teachers thrust into remote learning, supplying

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1 first responders with necessary broadband service and ensuring  
2 that the elderly had food delivery during a period marked by  
3 heightened isolation; and

4 WHEREAS, Kit Carson electric cooperative will continue its  
5 work on phase two of its energy independence transition plan  
6 with Guzman energy, focusing on expanding more distributed  
7 energy resources, local battery storage and electric vehicle  
8 infrastructure, as well as a commitment to the exploration of  
9 joint green hydrogen development;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
11 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 15,  
12 2023, be declared "Kit Carson Energy Independence Day" in the  
13 house of representatives; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Kit Carson electric  
15 cooperative be acknowledged for achieving "energy independence"  
16 for its members through electricity price stability, cost  
17 decreases, the ability to serve additional renewable energy  
18 resources and restoring local decision-making ability to better  
19 serve its members; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
21 transmitted to the chief executive officer of Kit Carson  
22 electric cooperative.